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THOSE whose earnest desire is to see representative institutions grow and develop on sound lines must look to public opinion, but they must not only look, they must act. It is the duty of every right-thinking citizen to do his best to stimulate such a growth of public opinion as will not tolerate the abuses which are creeping in. What is needed more than anything else is the participation in local affairs of public-spirited men and women who will look, not to their own individual advancement and gain, but to the good of the community. The position and prestige attached to membership of council or board has, I fear, all too often attracted the wrong type of men to our local bodies. Men who are unsuited to hold responsible office, unsuited both by educational attainments and in economic and social standing, come forward to contest elections and introduce into those elections an atmosphere which deters respectable citizens from participation in such contests. I feel strongly on this subject because I realise the danger of the present tendency, and all those who are interested in the future development of local self-government must share my apprehension.—MR. E. CONRAN SMITH, Secretary to the Government of Madras (Local Self-Government Department).

NOTES AND COMMENTS

[By The Editor]

MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PUNJAB

We are very much grieved to note that the record of municipal administration in the Punjab in 1930-31 was altogether unsatisfactory. In their review of the annual administration reports of municipal committees, the Government observe that in most places there was a lack of determination either to accomplish for the town the utmost that could be done with the funds available, or to see that sufficient funds were forthcoming. "There are still in the reports complaints of undue interference by members with the executive staff and its work and in the details of the administration, readiness to maintain superfluous and expensive establishment, often, it is reported, because it includes relatives of members, and unconscientiousness in wasting time on interminable discussions on matters outside the scope of the committee's duties." These defects were noticeable not merely in moffusil municipal committees, but in the premier municipality of the province (Lahore) itself. "Indeed few of the evils," remark the Government, "to which municipal administration is prone are absent from the working of this committee, procrastination, dilatoriness, carelessness with regard to the property of the public, the committee and the Government, communalism, inordinate delay in correspondence with Government and its officers, and lax control of establishment, being prominent among the committee's failings." As examples of the latter failing, mention is made of perquisites taken by the terminal tax staff and

winked at by the committee, the easy evasion of taxes on an extensive scale, the bad management of the office of the committee—so bad, indeed, that "scores of files whether from carelessness or by design, were reported as missing when requisitioned by the Commissioner in the course of an inquiry."

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A part at least of the responsibility for this sad state of affairs has to be laid at the doors of the ratepayers themselves. It is the lack of vigilance and public spirit on their part that is really at the bottom of the whole trouble. We read in the report that few elections during the year were contested and that the candidates generally managed somehow or other to come to a compromise on the eve of the poll. Two reasons are assigned for the large number of compromises resulting in uncontested elections. The one assigned by the Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepore is the "handsomeness of the profit harvested by the withdrawing candidate." He states that "the price sometimes amounts to thousands of rupees," and quotes an analogous instance of a member withdrawing from candidature for the vice-presidentship of a committee "on consideration of payment of all his considerable debts, with a little over." The other reason is said to be the desire to avoid loss of the deposit, the present rule for candidates being a deposit of Rs. 300 in the case of the larger municipalities, and of Rs. 150 in that of others, of which the candidate gets back two-thirds, one-third being his share in the costs of the election, while the candidate who fails to secure 12½ per cent of the votes forfeits the whole sum. But, whatever the real reason be, it cannot be gainsaid that the ratepayers in the Punjab are extremely indifferent to the civic interests of the areas they live in and do not evince

that concern for local self-government which their confreres in other provinces generally do. It is equally painful to note that in the few contested elections that took place malpractices were freely resorted to by rival candidates and their partisans. After commenting on the "monotonous consistency with which efforts are made to have the names of outsiders, children and imaginary persons entered on voters' registers, candidates being willing to go to considerable expense," a Government officer remarks with satisfaction that "the increase in stamp revenue at least compensates Government for the waste of its officers' time." It is high time that the leaders of the province devoted a little of their attention to these ugly developments that have already brought discredit on municipal administration in their midst.

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We are glad to learn, however, that the Government on their part are doing whatever they can to help improve matters. At the instance of the Government, the provincial Legislative Council has already passed the Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer) Bill. The object of the Bill is to secure an efficient executive, the members being left more free to decide broad questions of principle and administration, not paralysing the executive by constant interference in matters of detail, but acting in a deliberative and legislative rather than in an executive capacity. The chief instruments to secure this object are the vesting in the executive officer of a number of powers at present exercised by the municipal committee, and a provision devolving upon him control over the lower paid employees. The most contentious clause was that providing for the appointment and dismissal of the executive officer by a greater than a bare majority of the members, this being considered

necessary in order to ensure some stability of tenure for an efficient officer. At first fixed at two-thirds, the requisite majority was changed by the legislature to one of five-eighths. The Act applies only to those municipalities to which it is extended by notification, and in the event of a committee being unable to appoint an executive officer by the requisite majority, the appointment is to be made by the local government. It is to be hoped that this will prove an efficacious remedy for the paralysis that has crept over so many of the municipal committees, and all the more so since a committee appointed at the end of the year under report consisting of the Lahore Commissioner (Mr. Dobson), Sir Zafer Ali Khan, ex-Judge of the High Court, and Raja Harikishan Kaul, ex-Commissioner, to make recommendations for the improvement of the Lahore Municipal Committee, held very strongly that "the inefficiency and procrastination that have settled like a blight on the affairs of the committee can only be dispelled by the appointment of an executive officer." Another considerable piece of municipal legislation under contemplation at the end of the year was an amendment of the Municipal Act with the object of "giving greater power to compel delinquent committees to carry out their duties to the taxpayer, and of bringing the clauses relating to building schemes, encroachments and sanitation into line with modern requirements." We shall wait for the next review of the Punjab Government to see whether these legislative attempts at improving municipal administration in the province have yielded the desired result.

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We are indebted to the authorities of the Madras Local Boards Employees' Association for a full report of the proceedings of the second Annual Conference of the

Association held in January last. Limitations of space stand in the way of our publishing the report in our journal. We may say, however, that we have read with great interest the presidential address delivered by Mr. M. S. Thayapa Pillai, B. A., Secretary, District Board, Salem, at this conference. It contains several points of interest, not only to the employees of local boards, but also to others interested in the cause of local self-government. Mr. Thayapa Pillai has not chosen the easy path of exaggerating the grievances of fellow-workers in local bodies, but has boldly turned the searchlight inwards and exposed some of the internal weaknesses that have to be held to account for a good many of the so-called hardships suffered by local board employees. Mr. Pillai, prefacing his address with the remark that "ours is not a movement of revolt nor a challenge to constituted authority, but an attempt to make everyone feel that 'touch of nature which maketh all akin' and to forge the link of goodwill among one and all," pleads that the administration and the service alike would be improved if the presidents of local bodies are relieved of their executive duties and competent officers appointed by the Government to be in charge of the administration. He quotes a statement of the late Rai Bahadur M. Venkataraghavalu Reddi that "not a few of the failures and defects of local self-government in India may be traced to the inability to realise the importance of having a competent and well-paid official analogous to the English Town Clerk or Clerk of the County Council," and urges the need for executive officers, especially in view of the fact that "the chances of election and the Fortunatus' purse have pitchforked on the administration all sorts of men, good, bad and indifferent." He is convinced at the same time that "the old set of drudges suffering from a state of placid contentment and silent acquiescence in the

lot of local fund service," should die out and give place to better and more qualified men, so that the efficiency of the administration may improve and the status of local fund service may be raised to a higher level. There is no doubt that Mr. Pillai is right in his conclusions, and it is true that local self-government in no part of the world has proved successful in working without the whole-hearted co-operation of a well-qualified staff controlled and directed by efficient officers at the head.

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Mr. Pillai classifies the grievances of local board employees in general under four heads : (1) treatment at the initial recruitment into service; (2) treatment at times of promotions; (3) treatment while running through a time scale of pay ; and (4) treatment at times of changes of government. "The qualified man complains that he is treated alike with an unqualified man, and that his qualification is not recognized. True, but the recruitment of the unqualified man is our own fault......With an efficient set of regulations framed by the district board, unqualified men can be kept out even at the stage of recruitment, and every possibility of a grievance on the score of unequal treatment between qualified and unqualified men removed." As regards the alleged unequal treatment accorded at the time of promotions, Mr. Pillai is of opinion that the question will be solved by the constitution of a district cadre. Anomalous time scales have often a history which is none too creditable to the presiding officers of local bodies. "Some one's claims to higher post have been overlooked by the president for reasons best known to himself, and the disgruntled man has to be satisfied somehow. Some clerk has a powerful relation on the board, and he must make hay while the sun shines. Some one in a subordinate office

is having vested interests in the locality where he serves, and he should not be disturbed in any event. Some one has reached the maximum on the time scale, and is rotting on it without immediate prospect of promotion. Such ill-considered revision (of salaries) has a far-reaching effect. And people who are at the head of the office and have to maintain discipline find themselves on nettles." Such anomalies must cease, and it must be the conjoint effort of all concerned to see that they are not perpetuated. As regards advance increments, rules have recently been framed by Government, and there will be no more occasion for complaint on this score.

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As for unequal treatment to members of the staff closely following a change of government, the picture drawn by Mr. Pillai of the circumstances that lead up to it is one that is well worth keeping before the mind's eye. "Invariably it happens," he says, "that every office has got a disgruntled senior clerk, who has conducted himself so shabbily in his extra-official activities, put his spoke in the wheel of the administration where it was not wanted, got himself branded and condemned to the galleys. The authorities, however, have taken a humane view of his case and tolerated his continuance in office. But he is smarting under a sense of supposed wrong and is waiting for an opportunity to wreak vengeance. An impending president's election offers a favourable opportunity. He starts ogling with his chief's political opponents. They are only very glad to secure him as their man in the enemy's camp. By a clever arrangement previously settled upon he successfully gives out information that betrays the interests of his chief. We shall suppose that the old president is jettisoned and a new president is hailed in. Things

are taking a turn. Our disgruntled, disloyal wretch is now the hero of the party in power. The distribution of coronation honours will not brook delay. Our hero is the first in the list. His scale must be revised, and he must be given the maximum. A conscientious manager or head-clerk of the office has slyly to suggest to the new president that the board's liability on account of establishment will not admit of any increase, or that the element of discontent and consequent indiscipline among the staff will work havoc in the office. If he cannot convince his president, let him withdraw honourably, fold his arms, and consign the affairs of the board to the gods or to the devils, in whomsoever he has got the greater faith. Our hero is now the pampered favourite of the president. It does not take much time for minor fry to gather round him and worship as a hero. The head clerk should refrain from exercising any control over them. They, too, get their share in the spoil in due course. They may gloat over their achievement for the time being, but how evanascent such paradise is, experience will show. And how loyal they will prove to the new president, when sooner or later he too must pass through his days of tribulation, let wise men pause and think." "When we analyse the whole matter," adds Mr. Pillai, "we find that it is the black sheep among the staff that are mainly responsible for this element of unequal treatment, and weak presidents are induced to abet in their vagaries." It need hardly be said that Mr. Pillai has done distinct service to his brother-workers by calling their attention to the fact that, more often than not, it is the black sheep in their own camp who bring discredit on local board service and make it a bed of thorns at times even to the honest and the deserving.

We understand that a scheme of maternity relief and child welfare, drawn up by the Department of Public Health, has been sanctioned by the Coimbatore district board as from 1st November, 1932, to 31st March, 1933. The staff as sanctioned is as follows:—District Health Officer in general charge, Assistant District Health Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare—Woman) in direct charge, and six midwives. The Woman Assistant Health Officer has had a practical course in maternity and child welfare at the Health School, Madras. Each midwife is allotted five to ten villages within a radius of five miles from the centre and where she does intensive visiting, registers ante-natal cases, conducts labour cases and undertakes post-natal care of mother and infant. She maintains an individual record, ante-natal, intro-natal and post-natal for each such case. The Assistant Health Officer visits each centre once a month, stays three days in the centre, visits around in the villages with the midwife, guiding and directing the midwifery practice. She also holds ante-natal, infant and pre-school clinics at the centre during her stay, and conducts such activities as "Mothers' Classes," lantern lectures, etc. The scheme started working on 1st November, 1932, and the midwives have already conducted over and above the average number of cases required by them, e.g., 100 per annum. Women from village houses from all classes and castes attend the centre and their response has been remarkable. With the informal sanction of the president, district board, provision has been made in the budget for 1933-34 for (1) a trained Health Visitor to assist the Assistant District Health Officer; (2) purchase of a two-seater motor car for use of the Assistant District Health Officer, as transport is the main difficulty in her work. Local bodies have taken very enthusiastically to the scheme; one panchayat union has already requested

for a centre in its union town, and another alienated a site for building a child welfare centre. The district board is to be congratulated as being the first to employ a woman Assistant Health Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare. The Chingleput district board has just followed the example and sanctioned such an officer themselves. The great needs, viz., supervision of midwives by a woman officer under the direct control of the district board, and staff forming a central maternity service in the district board area, have thus been met. Conditions of service for midwives employed under individual taluk and union boards were most unsatisfactory and reacted on the type of worker available for this much-needed work in rural areas. There is no doubt that, with the more satisfactory conditions of service and administration thus established, educated women of the right type could be attracted to join, thereby ensuring the successful working of the scheme. Miss Beard, of the International Health Board, Rockefeller Foundation, recently visited three of these rural centres and was very much impressed with the manner in which village women had been reached in so short a time. In this connection it will be of interest to the reader to know that the Salem district board has employed a trained Health Visitor for supervision of its rural maternity relief centres, while the Salem municipality has employed a trained Health Visitor for its maternity and child welfare work. By the way, Salem is the only municipality so far that has appointed a special sub-committee for maternity and child welfare, co-opting influential and interested women in the town as members. The Coimbatore municipality has appointed an Assistant Health Officer (woman) for the maternity and child welfare work. She was deputed by them for special practical course at the Health School, Madras. The work in the town has

recently been organized on an improved basis by the Department of Public Health. All this points to a healthy change in the outlook of local bodies towards the vital question of affording all possible facilities for maternity relief and child welfare, and it need hardly be said that the change is one over which we can sincerely rejoice.

THE POPULATION PROBLEM OF INDIA AND ITS PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECT

[By Mr. T.S. Adisubramaniam, M.B.B.S., B.S.Sc.]

No apology is needed to bring to prominent notice this most important subject. It is a problem, which, though it has not been tackled by Government till now, is sure to be one of the chief difficulties of future Governments.

Within the last twenty years, the population of India has increased by about 38 millions. So vast an increase of population within so short a period cannot occur without resulting in a decline in the average income and standard of living. If population increases while production remains stationary, the average citizen will have less and less to live upon. And this is the position of India at the present time.

The Indian birth rate is higher than that of most European countries. It is about 35·5 per mille, and is only approached, equalled or passed by such countries as Japan (34·8), Russia (43·4), Roumania (34·3), and Bulgaria (37·2). The reflection of this high rate is seen in the decennial increase as shown in the census figures of 1931. The rate of natural increase in India is about 10 per cent. per annum. More figures are not necessary to prove that India is suffering from overpopulation.

A continuously high birth rate also produces a population containing a high proportion of children and

young adults. Such a population has naturally a high birth rate, especially in India, where most girls marry at an early age. Thus a vicious cycle arises and is kept up. Early marriage also increases birth rate in three ways: (*a*) A large number of children are borne per marriage; (*b*) intervals between generations are decreased; and (*c*) a favourable age constitution of the population is produced.

What are the evils attendant on overpopulation? They are (*a*) high death rate, (*b*) unemployment, and (*c*) poverty.

(*a*) A high birth rate is generally associated with a high death rate, because of a high infant mortality. Statistics show that India has an infant mortality of about 180. This high figure is exceeded only in Palestine, and equalled only in the Federated Malay States. The figure for England and Wales is only 74; that for New Zealand is lowest—about 34. Overpopulation leads to congestion and overcrowding and consequent insanitation. Tuberculosis is one of the chief evil results of overcrowding; and epidemics, too, are commoner in congested towns than in villages.

(*b*) A large population is one of the prominent causes of unemployment. Among other causes at present are uneven gold stock, war reparations, uneven production, and high tariffs. A rough estimate puts the unemployed in India at about 40 millions.

(*c*) The per capita standard of living depends on the country's total production or income. Existing Indian standards are too low for decent human existence, because the population is growing too rapidly in relation to income.

I do not propose to bother you with comparative figures from India and other countries. The fact is indisputable, and accepted on all hands. In most estimates

published by economists, you will find that in regard to divisible wealth, per capita, India ranks lower than any other country in the world, China alone excepted.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture states: "Throughout our investigations we have constantly been impressed with the thought that mere material improvement alone will not bring lasting benefit to the agricultural population. Increase in yield by better seed and better cultivation, security of the harvests gained by expanse of irrigation, immunity from losses due to pests or pestilence, higher prices from improved communications and conditions of marketing, everything in short which we have advocated for the material advancement of the people will merely postpone the effects of the growing pressure of the population on the soil. No lasting improvement in the standard of living of the great mass of the population can possibly be attained if every enhancement in the purchasing power of the cultivator is to be followed by a proportionate increase in the population."

The modern craze for mechanisation has also made the problem of overpopulation worse. Labour saving appliances, though unnecessary in India, are nevertheless used, and deprive large numbers of men of labour. In spite of it, the tendency in India seems to be only to accelerate mechanisation and we have to face the fact, whether we like it or not.

Let me next turn to the consideration of the possible remedies for overpopulation. India has always had the advantage of the great natural remedies of floods, famines and epidemics. Without these natural checks, we cannot imagine where we would have been. But even in this action, they are in no way a source of benefit owing to the attendant suffering and privation, and also from the fact

that it is effective population which is generally affected, namely children and healthy adults.

The artificial checks on population are (*a*) emigration; (*b*) late marriage; (*c*) sterilisation of the mentally defective; and (*d*) contraception or birth control.

(a) *Emigration.*—These are not the times of Columbus or the Pilgrim Fathers or Captain Cook. The political condition of India also goes some way in precluding this outlet for her excess population. These are the times of assisted emigration and repatriation. Even cooly labour in Ceylon and the Malaya is not so much in requisition as before. In 1929 there were 192,400 emigrants from Madras to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements and in the same year there were 133,973 immigrants. Brazil seems to be the only place which would receive a limited number of Indians. So emigration is not going to solve the ills of overpopulation in India.

(*b*) *Late Marriage* is certainly a practical and practicable method of checking overpopulation. I have already stated the three ways in which early marriage contributes to overpopulation. The Sarda Act and the Age of Consent Bill are examples of legislation which tends to favour late marriage. But we all know the storm of opposition which the Sarda Act gave rise to; and even now it is practically a dead letter. It is merely a question of public opinion and practice. But as a practical measure to check overpopulation, at least at present, it also fails.

(*c*) *Sterilisation of the Defectives* is another very controversial measure which, even if applied, will have only a very limited application. A few States in America have such a measure in their statute book. A committee of prominent medical men in England have pronounced against the practicability of the measure and its futile

nature. In India it will take a century at least for it even to be considered as being within the realm of practical politics.

(*d*) The last measure, but by no means least, is contraception or birth control. I have reserved it to the last as I wish to discuss it at some length.

Firstly, with regard to terminology, the term "Birth Control" is rather unhappy. It literally means "control of birth" which is a penal offence under the statute. A better term is "conception control." I shall, for the sake of uniformity and easier understanding, use the commoner term.

The need for birth control is very widely admitted, though legislation has not followed closely on this recognition. In 1926 the first proposal for State aided measures for birth control propaganda was brought up in the House of Commons in England, but was defeated. But the question is sure to be brought up again. In other countries three groups of people have demanded it. There are advocates of women's rights, who make the question a plank in the platform of the feminist movement. There are the labour or socialist leaders, who view the known fact of the lower birth rate among the upper and middle classes as a sort of class privilege, and, therefore, calling for adjustment. There are also the sociologists and the eugenists who seek to improve the conditions of life, to increase the happiness of the people, and to improve the moral and physical status of the race or nation. In India, only the last class is vocal at present.

I do not propose to discuss the various methods of contraception in the pages of a public journal like this. The ideal contraceptive has not yet been discovered. But science is advancing day by day, and an ideal method

does not seem to be impossible in the near future. Already vitamins are incriminated in the causation of fertility or otherwise. Deficiency in Vitamin B is found to cause loss of fertility in male rats, and the future work on contraceptives may very well take these lines.

The objections raised against contraception are many. They are based on religious, moral, physiological or eugenic grounds.

(*a*) *Religious.*—All Catholics, orthodox Jews, Anglicans and Presbyterians are opposed to contraception. So, too, orthodox Hindus. Hence in France, though the birth rate has been very much lowered by the use of contraceptives, it continues to be high among the Roman Catholics.

Religious objection is a serious thing, especially in India. It is the foundation of most controversy; but I do hope that some clever person would reconcile the practice with religion.

(*b*) *Moral.*—The very idea of contraception is to limit the size of a family according to one's means. Therefore it is believed to foster selfishness and self-indulgence, and destroy self-denial, self-control, patience, gentleness and other qualities that make for nobility of character. I do not attach much importance to this objection.

That contraceptives are used more for extra-marital than for marital relationships and, therefore, tend to make morals go from bad to worse, is another objection raised against them. There might be a little truth in this; but it is not enough to deter us from applying this remedy to the good of such a population as is found in India.

(*c*) *Physiological.*—Another objection raised is that contraceptives are harmful either to the man or the

woman, more often the woman. There is some truth in this also, but with great care in the choice of the method this harm can be greatly minimised. It is also said that contraceptives reduce the fertility of women who use them. The lines:

He that will not, when he may,
When he will, he shall have nay,

are much quoted. Their truth is doubtful.

(*d*) *Eugenic.*—In other countries like England and France birth control is objected to, owing to the fear of a stationary population occurring. Even the bogey of the yellow and the black peril are raised in objecting to the measure. These countries may have such a fear; but India has none.

Another objection raised against contraception is that it generally reaches only the upper and middle classes, who can very well afford to have large families, but leaves the poor alone who most require it. Thus the quality of racial stock may deteriorate. It is a valid objection which can be overcome by better methods of education.

Another curious objection is that geniuses and prodigies come only from big families, and hence limitation deprives a country of would-be geniuses and great men. India has sufficient brains at present: what she lacks is sufficient food.

Mysore State has taken the lead in this direction by starting a birth control clinic. I hope the day may not be far off when the Government, and the local bodies, too, will take up this question with the seriousness which it deserves, and start institutions where birth control methods will be taught by trained persons of either sex to the men and women of our country. The teaching is easy, and it

is not difficult to interest people at large, for every one is eager to limit his family, but is unable to do it, because he does not know how.

I believe, and I am not alone in that belief, that the salvation of our country lies in controlling our population. Therefore, I believe also that contraception is essential in India, whatever the needs to other countries might be.

The ideal contraceptive has not been discovered; some of them may be harmful. There might be objection to them on religious, moral, eugenic, physiological and psychological grounds. But which social measure of public utility is entirely free from such objections? Therefore, between the certain ill-effects of overpopulation and the probable vague ill-effects due to contraceptives, I shall certainly choose the latter.

ORGANISING PUBLIC HEALTH*

[By Mr. V. Srinivasan, M. A.]

It is well to analyse, on an occasion like this, the ideas involved in the concept of public health and the share of the municipal council among institutions of civilised society in promoting public health welfare.

Nowadays a major portion of civic governance is concerned with matters of public health, and municipal bodies promote schemes of organising the same. This, however, does not absolve the individual of all obligations in the matter. It is not a case of everyone's business becoming nobody's business, and it should be recognised that the individual could not afford to be indifferent. He has his place in a scheme of public health, and without his co-operation the labours of health authorities would not be of any avail. The latter can at best only hope to supplement the citizen's efforts. That is why one has to be duly informed of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship which alone would earn for him the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

In organising health propaganda civic bodies disseminate information on several matters connected with the welfare of the society. Today the Sirkar or Government does not stop with enacting laws and executing them. The theory of laissez-faire, "let alone," does not any more govern state action which has enlarged in scope.

Municipalities are quasi-governmental bodies. The services they render to the people in their charge are

*Report of an address delivered at the National Health Week Celebrations at Srivilliputtur on 26th September, 1932.

manifold ; and in America, in cities like Detroit, the town councils are said to manage their own police and control their town railways, besides maintaining countless educational and vocational institutions of a university standard.

Aristotle held that the state exists, not for life, but for good life. And the promotion of good life has, indeed, become the motto of all civic bodies which best resemble the city states of Aristotelian philosophy.

We may now proceed to consider how people today are assured of the requisites of good life which alone ensure sound public health conditions in a society.

I. *Accommodation.* Decent and ventilated quarters constitute the first requisite of human welfare. The housing problem has become acute after the Great War, and particularly in the case of labour drawn to urban areas where industries usually get localised. Failure to tackle the problem has often led to unrest and inefficiency of labour. Consequently some of the municipalities in the West have applied themselves to the solution of the question and cities like London, Liverpool and Glasgow show what a blessing municipal housing has proved to be. The movement has spread to the continent too. In Germany municipal boroughs acquire suitable areas which are made available for the building operations of co-operative societies. Some progress is also reported from Vienna where the municipality has recently erected tenement houses for the working class people.

We have the beginning of such things in our own province itself. Some time ago the Madras Corporation opened the Cochrane Basin settlement. It is hoped that the idea would become popular with the other

municipalities, particularly as scientific and hygienic conditions could be ensured thereby.

II. *Building regulation.* Allied to the question of housing accommodation is the problem of building regulation. Sky-scrapers of the American type have proved to be a menace to civilization and had had the deleterious effect, among other things, of shutting out from people sun's rays so necessary for life in the West, and the great cities of Europe are hence trying to put a check on their progress. The problem is not peculiar to the West; it is present in a certain degree even in Bombay.

The London County Council recently put a ban on the erection of edifices of over five floors, and in Edinburgh the building limit was long ago lowered to three stories.

It is gratifying that the Madras Government have got themselves interested in the matter and have now issued rules which enable local bodies to watch the building activities of the people which may henceforth be made to conform to better artistic standards.

III. *Good food and adequate water-supply* are the *sinequa non* of existence in this world. Adulteration of food is luckily within popular control in our country. In America the State Bureau of Chemistry administers the Food and Drugs Act. And in some of the countries of Europe, kitchens are run on co-operative lines where perfect hygienic canons are observed. As for water, public opinion in this country, though it has ever held pollution of streams as something reprehensible, does not appear to be sufficiently vocal today. And this accounts for most of our ills. Moreover, a rigider inspection of meat-shops and the exercise of greater care and discretion in the

licensing of boarding houses would materially advance the cause of public health.

IV. *Civic environment.* It is the special glory of civic life in the West that the municipalities vie with each other in catering to the aesthetic needs of the populace. Everywhere you have art exhibitions, agricultural and horticultural shows, and fairs galore as the one in Leipzig.

In the matter of gardens we have to take a leaf from our ancient history. The garden committee of the Samuhams of Chola polity looked after the gardening activities of the community. The endowment of nandavanams and the organisation of festivals were amongst the obligations imposed by society on persons who stood charged before its judicial committee with offences against the society. Lopping off the branches of avenue trees constituted an assault in the code of Chanakya, the famous Maurya statesman. We moderns, who have been infatuated with civilization, have, indeed to learn a lesson from these things. It is to be sadly confessed that we of the 20th century have not been sufficiently alive to our responsibilities in the matter of the upkeep of our avenues. It is good to recognise that the cutting of trees or any act of disafforestation is both cruel and unnecessary.

In ancient India arrangements were made for the cremation of paupers. Nor were strangers left unattended. The law-giver Brihaspati enjoined the community to care for the idiot, the infirm, the blind, and the dumb. We have some counterpart in some of the civic bodies of the West which have applied themselves to social welfare work like the maintenance of work-houses for the destitute and the organisation of poor relief. A start in the direction has also been made in the Madras city.

These are but a few of the methods of organising good life. The control of bakeries, of dhobikanas, and of slaughter-houses, and the provision of good playgrounds for children are some of the other aspects of the problem to which municipal bodies could apply themselves.

In Russia gymnasiums are provided for children before and after school hours.

In France a law passed in 1919 requires municipalities with a population of 5,000 and above to satisfy Government as to the adequacy of their provision of open spaces for recreation and their programme for housing the architectural and archaeological treasures of the town. These matters would be considered by a departmental commission which is charged with the function of investigating the scope for improvement.

The maintenance of public baths, museums and aquariums appear to be among the chief concerns of municipalities in the United States, and the schools of Britain never lack playgrounds.

It is not necessary to expatiate on the extent of our deficiency in some of these matters. There is ample scope for improvement in the sphere of school-hygiene, and some of the missionary institutions working in our midst have lessons which ought not to be lost upon us.

V. Animal welfare. Such is the callosity of human nature everywhere that we, in India, have been indifferent to the welfare of the animal kingdom. This is certainly not creditable to a land which produced Emperor Asoka who provided hospitals for man and beast alike. Our men have not taken to the S. P. C. A. ideals as much as they ought to. We suffer animals to be cruelly treated ; we don't care for them, they are ill-fed, and the sheds provided for them become breeding places of disease. They in the West, who

have no religious feeling towards the cows, but who consider them to be objects of value, take better care of them. As Mr. Galletti, I.C.S., once put it: "Where the cow is a valuable possession she is tended with care and love. Where she is merely an object of veneration she is left to stand and starve in public standing and starving grounds which are miscalled grazing grounds." It is time that we abolished these breeding places of disease. In a country where maternity and child welfare problems await satisfactory solution, it is necessary to emphasize the fact that animal welfare is a part, and an integral part, of the problem of public health.

VI. Preventive medicine and war with disease. This is a matter in which the private citizen's co-operation is called for in the highest degree. Crude superstitions should give place to reasoned judgment if the efforts of health authorities are to bear fruit. Viewed thus, education and yet more education appears to be the solvent of ignorance. It must precede reform if a refreshing change for the better is to be effected, so that people might know how to present a second line of defence in the war with diseases.

The operations against disease have gone on and have now proceeded on an international scale. Mention should now be made of the *Health Organization of The League of Nations* which was brought into existence some nine years ago under Article 23 of the League Covenant. The League has interested itself in matters concerning the dissemination of information, the conduct of research, and assisting in the eradication in select areas of some of the worst scourges afflicting humanity. The *Epidemiological Intelligence Bulletin* of the League secretariat has been a storehouse of information to the world. The League has

interested itself in the tropical diseases, and the world is grateful for the work done and the researches conducted under its auspices for the eradication of malaria, leprosy, sleeping sickness, yellow fever, and other diseases. The League has assisted Poland and the Baltic states in their war with typhus, and has alse trained public health officers for the Greek Government and at Warsaw and Moscow. The Health Organisation of the League has actively co-operated with the Opium Committee. It has also, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, sponsored investigations into anthrax and other diseases peculiar to factory labour. It has done much to improve conditions of marine labour in Far Eastern ports. All these redound to the credit of the League which has obtained better results in the sphere of public health than in the several other forms of its activities.

We may now indicate the lines on which steps against diseases could be taken in local areas. Much of the public health work is done either by preventive work or by propaganda.

Science has succeeded in securing immunity from several diseases which is secured by inoculation available for diseases like typhoid, rabies, cholera, plague, pox. But the masses do not know this. Knowledge of their availability has to be brought to their very door. Even then there is the danger of the people continuing to be indifferent to diseases, immunity from which is obtainable through such a simple treatment. Here education alone should come to the rescue.

Segregation and quarantine methods would also arrest the spread of disease.

A good part of preventive work would be fruitful only if the health authorities are enabled to watch the rise and

spread of the disease. For this, prompt reporting is very necessary as also good and correct recording of births, and, more important than that, deaths. These are the requisites of useful vital statistics. The people have a grave responsibility in the matter of reporting. Lack of correct data as to the ailment that is prevalent in a particular area seriously impairs the efficiency of the work done by the health staff. It is refreshing that the rules regarding the registration of births and deaths are being enforced more and more rigorously.

The United States Department of Census appears to be doing work very satisfactorily in the matter of preparing vital statistics.

Free consulting service and prompt dispensing of medicine would go a long way in mitigating the ravages of disease. And people should be familiarised with the use of antiseptics. Free distribution of sera and vaccine is also called for.

Propaganda. Much of the success of the operations on the part of the health department must needs depend for a long time on relentless propaganda. Human nature being what it is, it is susceptible to the force of argument reinforced by pictures. Phenomenal results have been obtained in Russia, where the Soviet fight their battle with tuberculosis and syphilis by cinema shows, instead of by pamphlets and posters. We have just seen the beginning of such things in India, and lantern lectures and exhibitions have been given a prominent place in health propaganda. These are arranged for during the National Health Week, the celebration of which is directed towards the same end, viz., of getting the masses public health minded.

It is the duty of the public to heartily co-operate in the undertaking and make the celebrations a great success.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES*

[By Mr. V. Shiva Ram, M.A., Ph. D., F.R. His. S.]

The Commission system was first adopted in Galveston in Texas, in 1901, after the tidal inundation of the city as a temporary measure. The original charter provided for a Commission of two elected commissioners and three appointed by the Governor with all the administrative and legislative powers vested in that body, discarding the time-honoured system of checks and balances. The charter of that city, as amended in 1903, provides for the popular election, every two years, of five commissioners. One of these (usually selected by his colleagues) is entitled the mayor-president. He is chairman at all meetings, but has no special powers, except that he is expected to exercise a co-ordinating supervision over the four departments, the headship of each of which is allotted, by majority vote, to one of the other four commissioners. The success of this system in Galveston led to its adoption in other cities, particularly Dee Moines in 1917, the capital of Iowa. The Dee Moines plan also provided initiative, referendum and recall. During the next ten years the plan spread into 43 cities of the Union and is now in force in about 350 cities in all, though only half-a-dozen of them with a population of more than 200,000 and in fourteen cities with more than 100,000. The details of organisation differ to a certain extent from city to city. The term for which commissioners are elected varies from a single

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*The first article on the subject appeared in the January issue of the quarterly.

year to six years, but two-year and four-year terms are the most common. Commissioners are usually paid salaries ranging from a few hundred to several thousand dollars per annum. In a few cities the commissioners are directly elected to certain departments, instead of distributing the work among themselves.

The merits of this plan are: (1) It fixes responsibility by concentrating powers in the five commissioners; (2) it gives economical and efficient administration to cities on business lines; (3) it helps to eliminate friction and conduces to more prompt business; (4) it induces better men to serve the city; and (5) it reduces the tax rates of cities as compared with the mayor and council type of cities, for instance, the per capita levy of the taxes of the mayor cities was 16 dollars 36 cents as against 12 dollars 31 cents in the commission governed cities.* On the whole, the improvement in the general tone and temper of municipal administration under the commission plan is distinctly noticeable.† Munro says as follows: "It might almost be laid down as a maxim deducible from American municipal experience that the smaller an elective body the more thorough its accountability to the electorate."

On the other hand, the plan is not without its drawbacks: (1) The commission is not adequately representative of the various political, geographical, racial and economic interests in any large city. (2) It abolishes the safeguards of checks and balances by enabling the commission both to appropriate and to spend money. Though the same principle is at the foundation of the English municipal system it has not proved there in operation either as a source of corruption or as an incentive to

* See the statistics of the Bureau of the Census of 1916.

† Munro: Government of American cities.

extravagance. But in America conditions and traditions are different. (3) It places the administrative power in too many hands and diffuses administrative responsibility in too many places. Jealousy among the five commissioners may lead to friction and working at cross-purposes. (4) It fails to make use of experts, as the commissioners in charge of departments are often laymen, and due to frequent changes in the personnel they cannot acquire mastery over their departments. It may also tend to interfere too frequently with the permanent heads of departments and permanent officials. (5) Lastly, it is an oligarchical, undemocratic and bureaucratic form of government which takes the government of the city away from the people, which is alien to the spirit of American institutions. Due to these drawbacks and the failure of the plan to make use of experts, the city manager plan of government has been devised.

The city manager plan arose out of the commission system and was devised to remedy what were considered to be two great defects in that form of government--namely, the division of responsibility, and the tendency to put the various departments in direct charge of men with no expert qualifications. With the introduction of the city manager, however, the "commission," in the American sense of the term, rather takes the character of a "council" (and is often so called), in that its members are not administrative heads of departments, but form a deliberative and legislative body, while in the more recent city-manager charters the number of members is larger than the normal five. The first trial of the city-manager system was made by Staunton, Virginia, in 1908, but the first case which roused great interest was that of Dayton, Ohio, a city of over 116,000 inhabitants, whose new charter came into force in 1914. Under this charter

all municipal powers, except those relating to the management of the schools and public libraries, are vested in a commission or city council consisting of five members elected at large for a period of four years, some retiring every second year. The candidate who receives the highest vote is given the title of mayor, but he has no special functions except that of presiding at meetings. He receives an annual salary of $1,800, his four colleagues receive $1,200, each. The council or commission, by majority vote, enacts the municipal ordinances and has a general control over finance, and it appoints the city manager and the city clerk. It does not have anything to do with the actual management of the various departments, nor does it immediately supervise the work of the permanent officials. It entrusts the city manager with the entire control of administration. The city manager holds office at the will of the council or commission, and is also subject to recall by the whole body of electors. His salary is $125,000 per annum. He may be roughly compared with the German burgomaster and our own chief executive officer in Indian cities, being a highly paid official.

The city manager has numerous functions. He attends all meetings of the council or commission, in an advisory capacity with the right to take part in the discussion, but not to vote. He has no power to raise or appropriate money for any purpose, though he prepares the annual estimates for the approval of the commissioners. It is his duty to enforce all the laws and ordinances. Finally, he appoints and removes all heads of departments and subordinate officials or employees subject to the civil service regulations. He also assigns to each official the sphere of work to be done. He is the general supervisor of all the work done in the various departments and offices, having charge of contracts, the purchase

of supplies and so forth, the details being handled by subordinates. He is, in a word, the general manager of the corporation, the electors being supposed to be the shareholders and the commission to be the board of directors. The Americans are keen and successful businessmen, and they have felt that a city should run its affairs on purely business and economic lines, giving sixteen annas worth of value for every rupee spent. Since 1914, about 300 cities have adopted this plan or a variation of it. Only Cleveland, of the cities over 200,000, is as yet thus governed, while Dayton, Grand Rapids, with over 100,000 each, have also adopted this plan. The plan has, however, proved to be most popular in the smaller cities. The latest city to adopt this plan is Kansas City in 1926.

So far the plan has been a highly valuable, if not an indispensable, adjunct to the commission form of government. It strengthens the latter at its weakest point, by ensuring a high grade of professional skill at the apex of the city's administrative system. The future of the plan depends upon two things, viz., (1) whether the right type of men will be forthcoming for the city managership, and (2) whether the position can be kept out of the vicious circle of political patronage. The latter danger is the most serious and has already made its appearance in some cities where a "local man" is wanted for the place sometimes even on lower salary, and if this policy becomes general the whole plan will be rendered ineffective. The example of Germany should prove the truth of this dictum.

America has not yet reached a final solution of the problems of municipal government. She is still experimenting. Old theses have been discarded and new forms of government are being devised and given a new trial. The future is full of hope, and whatever machinery may be

devised eternal vigilance on the part of the average citizen is the price of liberty.

Municipal Government and Democracy in America. The initiative, referendum, and recall play an important part in American municipal government, and perhaps they are even unknown in the municipal systems of other countries. The exercise of these methods of direct democracy requires a highly educated and intelligent electorate. By the initiative is meant the right of a definite percentage of the voters in any municipality to propose charter amendments or ordinances, and to require that these shall be submitted to the people at either a regular or a special election. If such a proposal obtains at the polling a majority of the votes actually recorded upon it, it becomes effective. By the referendum is meant the right of a stated proportion of the voters to demand that any ordinance passed by the city council shall be withheld from going into force until the opinion of voters can be expressed upon it at a regular or a special election. If a majority of the votes polled upon such an ordinance is in the negative, the ordinance does not go into effect. The recall may be defined as an agency through which an official may be removed from his post before the end of his term.

The initiative and the referendum have been adopted in a large number of states and cities and have been put into practice to a considerable extent. They are most common in the western and southern states. Portland, Oregon, submitted fourteen questions at a regular election in 1913 and fifteen more at a special election in the same year. The San Francisco ballot of November, 1916, contained twenty-six questions. These are rather unusual. The practice, however, is a much more restricted use of the referendum. A list of over 100 questions submitted to the voters of twenty American cities during 10 years shows

that a large proportion of the measures proposed by the initiative deal with changes in the municipal constitution or with franchises or monopolies, but a variety of matters, such as the widening of a street, the rebuilding of a bridge and the adoption of a new system of assessment, are included. The recall has not as yet been very widely acted upon. It usually applies to elected officers only, but in some cities to appointed officials as well. The quota necessary for putting the proceeding in motion is usually from 15 to 25 per cent of the total number of votes polled at the last election. Out of 167 city manager charters, 109 provide for initiative, referendum and recall, nine for initiative and recall, two for initiative and referendum, and one for referendum and recall.

Preferential voting has been adopted in many cities with commission and city manager forms of government instead of the method of straight balloting, as under the latter a minority candidate may be elected. The preferential system of voting ensures the voting of the candidate with the greater support (first, second and third choices are allowed to the voters). Ashtabula, Ohio, introduced in its commission manager government a system of proportional representation as well. The ballot used in this system is the same as in the preferential system, but the method of counting votes is altogether different. The purpose of proportional representation is to give each fraction of the electorate its due share of representation. The chief objection to proportional representation is its seeming complexity when presented to the average voter. It looks pedantic and intricate, but in its actual operation, however, it is simple enough as the experience of American cities shows. I think some Indian towns should try both preferential voting and

proportional representation as an aid to minority representation in joint electorates instead of the separate electorates as at present. There are one or two features of American municipal government which have made remarkable progress. One is the matter of town-planning. Most of the American towns are well planned, Washington D.C. being one of the best planned capitals of the world. The progress in town-planning is due to the initiative of business and other civic organisations who spend much time and energy and often large sums of money on the preliminaries of a scheme before submitting it to the local authority to be put into execution. The same is true in relation to provision for public recreation, and public health generally such as play grounds, parks, museums, etc. In the matter of education which is not treated as a strictly local function, American cities and the general public spend enormous sums and take universal interest in the management of schools and even colleges. The public library systems of American cities are justly famous throughout the world for the facilities they offer to the public as a means of extra-mural education. For instance, New York alone spends on its schools and libraries more than the whole educational budget of the United Provinces or any other single province of India.

The traditions of American municipal government are linked with the so-called democratic ideals which it was claimed could be realised only by the direct election of all officials, which led in practice to a system of short terms of office and a lack of technical qualifications. A further result of this system and cause of difficulty is the introduction of national party politics on elaborately organised lines into all municipal elections. In the various programmes of municipal reformers and in the various

experiments which have been made in municipal government there appears to be no desire to extend the old system based on principle of democracy but to treat the matter mainly as one of a business nature with the aim of ensuring efficiency and honesty in the administration of municipal affairs. On the other hand, the marked extensions in "direct government" and "home-rule" for the cities are far in advance of any popular form of municipal government in any other country of the world. This principle is a distinct advance of local control of local affairs as against central control of local affairs prevailing on the continent and even England.

The work of governing a city should not be left entirely to the men and women whom we elect at the polls. The public officials cannot supply all the initiative and all the ideas. Chambers of commerce, boards of trade, labour unions, civic leagues and other organisations are to foster discussion and focus the attention of the whole people upon what goes on at the city. The tendency of America in recent years has been to utilise these civic organisations for the betterment of city government. The organs of public opinion such as newspapers are also being enlisted to create a civic conscience. In spite of that, civic apathy on the part of the masses is quite widespread, though it is not greater than in some European countries as may be revealed by the proportion of voting at every election. It is not really the form of government that matters, but the interest that the people of a city manifest in civic questions. Judged by this standard, the American municipal system may be said to be as successful as any other in a modern democracy.

LOCAL BOARDS AT WORK

LOCAL BOARDS AT WORK

[*We are publishing below summaries of the proceedings sent to us of local boards' and panchayats' meetings held during the quarter ending 31st December, 1932. In order that a comprehensive view of the working of the local self-governing institutions in the province may be presented to the reader, it is requested that the presidents of the various local boards and panchayats may be pleased to send the proceedings of the quarter commencing from January 1933 and ending with 31st March, 1933, before the end of April 1933.*]

DISTRICT BOARDS

Bellary

A special meeting of the newly constituted Bellary District Board was held on 1st November, 1932, Mr. F. W. Stewart, C.I.E., I.C.S., Collector and *ex-officio* President, presiding. After the oath of allegiance to the Crown had been taken by all the members and the president, Mr. M. Gangappa proposed that Mr. Y. Mahabaleswarappa be elected president of the board. Mr. K. L. Kesava Reddi seconded the proposal. Mr. B. Subbanna Charlu proposed that Dewan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliar be elected president, and this was seconded by Mr. T. Panchaksharayya. On ballot being taken, it was found that Mr. Y. Mahabaleswarappa had secured 23 votes and Dewan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliar 22 votes. Mr. Y. Mahabaleswarappa was declared elected as the president.

The board met again on 2nd November, 1932, for the election of a vice-president with the newly elected president in the chair. Mr. B. Subbanna Charlu proposed that Mr. P. Uddanayya be elected vice-president. Mr. G. Venkoba Rao seconded the proposal. Mr. Jambu Siva Reddi proposed that Mr. G. Krishnaswami Naidu be elected vice-president, but Mr. Krishnaswami Naidu declined the offer. No further proposals having been made, Mr. P. Uddanayya was declared elected vice-president of the board.

The last meeting of the board during the quarter was held on 17th December, 1932. Proposed by Mr. M. Gangappa and seconded by Mr. Kesava Reddi, Mr. M. C. Konda Reddi was elected member of the District Secondary Education Board. A sum of Rs. 250 was sanctioned for the celebration of the Health and Baby Week. Government Memorandum No. 50336-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 18th November, 1932, forwarding with remarks the report relating to the board dated 7th November, 1932, of the special officer appointed for suggesting ways and means "to stabilise the financial position of local bodies" was placed before the board and the following resolution passed: "Adjourned. The report and reply from the president thereto should be circulated among the members." Board's resolution No. 29, dated 25th July, 1932, sanctioning the appointment of a panchayat officer was then taken up. G. O. No. 3139, L. & M., dated 9th August, 1932, commending a scale of Rs. 150—10—200 as pay to the district panchayat officer was also read in this connection, and the following resolution was passed: "The scale of Rs. 150—10—200 is adopted in anticipation of the final approval of the appointment by the Government. The expenditure should be met from the general funds." Lastly, the board resolved that an address be presented to

the Hon'ble the Rajah of Bobbili, and the draft address prepared in this connection was also approved.

Chingleput

A special meeting of the Chingleput District Board was held on 22nd October, 1932, with Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnaswami Reddiar, B.A., President, in the chair. The following amended regulation passed by the board at its meeting held on 20th August, 1932, with reference to G.O. Mis. No. 989, L. & M., dated 14th March, 1932, was taken up for reconsideration : " A ministerial servant may be required to retire at the age of 55 years, or after completing 25 years of pensionable service, whichever is earlier, but should ordinarily be retained in service if he continues efficient up to the age of 60 years or 30 years of pensionable service. He must not be retained after that except in very special circumstances which must be recorded in writing and with the sanction of the Local Government." The board resolved that "the service regulations be so modified as not to retire pensionable servants who have not attained the age of superannuation, and that a draft of the regulations so modified in accordance with the rules issued by the Government up to date be placed before the board at its next meeting." Board's resolution No. 21, dated 20th August, 1932, varying, among other things, the strength and scales of pay of the establishment under the district board engineer, district health officer, district panchayat organiser and his staff, district board's office and the board secondary schools, was placed on the table again and ratified to satisfy fully the requirements of section 67 of the Madras Local Boards (Amended) Act of 1930.

An ordinary meeting was held on the same day. The following resolution, moved by Mr. M. Narayanaswami

Reddiar and seconded by Mr. A. Rajagopal Reddiar, was carried: "This board resolves that the members of the board do occupy the seats in the board's meeting hall as allotted to them by the president, and no member shall be allowed to address the board or to vote if he is not in his proper place." G. O. No. 3614, L. & M., dated 8th September, 1932, stating "that the entrants to the local board service after 1st April, 1932, shall not be eligible to be paid any pension from the funds of the local boards, nor shall any pensionary contribution be paid on their behalf from such funds, and that there is no change at present in respect of the appointments for which pensionary contribution is being paid now," was cansidered by the board and the following resolution passed: "The Government having ruled that no pensionary contribution shall be paid in the case of servants or officers entering the service of local boards on or after 1st April, 1932, it is resolved that persons already in pensionable sarvice as are willing to come under the provident fund scheme will be admitted to subscribe to the fund with the sanction of the Government in each individual case." By another resolution the board exempted the engineering department, district health officer, assistant district health officer, president and vice-president of the district board from payment of rent while occupying the L. F. travellers' bungalows in the district on duty. On G. O. No. 38899-1-C, L. & M., dated 9th September, 1932, calling for the opinion of the district boards in regard to the rate of licence fees to be fixed for motor vehicles plying for hire on the principle of seating capacity for each vehicle, the board fixed a rate of Rs. 60 per seat per annum.

Another special meeting of the board was held on 26th November, 1932. The president's proposal to abolish "as a measure of further retrenchment" from 1st April,

1933, the post of the second grade assistant engineer and the staff attached to him, and redistribute the subdivisions as shown hereunder, was sanctioned: Ponneri—under direct charge of the district board engineer; Tiruvallur, Sriperumbudur, and Saidapet—under one assistant engineer who will be given a special personal allowance of Rs. 50 a month in addition to his present pay and fixed travelling allowance; Chingleput, Madurantakam and Conjeevaram—under one assistant engineer." Another proposal of further retrenchment moved by the president was the abolition of IV, V and VI forms of the Uttiramerur board high school from the date of the closing of the school, i.e., from 1st May, 1933. The board sanctioned the proposal and approved of the revised proposition statement showing the strength of the staff after the abolition of the high school department.

An ordinary meeting was alse held on the same day. The board placed on record "its sense of sorrow at the untimely demise of Mr. B. Rangappa Naidu, member of the board." The draft administration report of the board for the year 1931-32 was approved. The following committees consisting of the members noted against each were then constituted: Budget committee—Messrs. M. Vedachala Mudaliar, M. Narayanaswami Reddiar, V. Gopaul Naidu, T. Shanmugham Pillai, T. Appavu Naidu, D. K. Ramayya Naidu, and P. Balasubramania Reddiar with the president as convenor; Finance committee—Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib, Messrs V. K. Ramaswami Mudaliar, M. Vedachala Mudaliar, V. Gopaul Naidu, T. Shanmugham Pillai, M. Bhaktavatsalam Mudaliar, P. R. Thiruvengada Reddiar, Rao Sahib D.K. Ramayya Naidu, and Mr. Hopkins with the president as convenor. The draft scheme for the Tambaram Town-Planning Scheme submitted by the engineer was approved

and it was resolved that the same be published in the prescribed manner inviting objections, if any. The board resolved that a sum of Rs. 15,000 be obtained as loan from the pilgrim tax fund of the Tiruvallur panchayat board, repayable in ten annual intalments of Rs. 1,500 each with interest at 6 per cent per annum. The annual subscription of Rs. 100 to The Madras Chamber of Local Boards for the year 1932-33 was sanctioned. In this connection, Mr. V. K. Ramaswami Mudaliar was elected as member to represent the board in the Chamber since the president had already been elected as an honorary member of the Chamber. Several subjects of a routine nature were also dealt with at the meeting.

Chittoor

An ordinary meeting of the Chittoor District Board was held on 29th October, 1932, with Rao Bahadur V. Raghunatha Reddi, President, in the chair. Messrs A. Muniswami Reddi and C. Muniswami Chetti who had ceased to be members of the board under section 56 (4) of the amended Local Boards Act due to their consecutive absence from the meetings of the board for three months were reinstated. The draft administration report for the year 1931-32 was then adopted and the following resolution was recorded in this connection : "The board resolves to place on record its sense of high appreciation of the valuable service rendered to the district board by its president, Rao Bahadur V. Raghunatha Reddi, with great ability and in a spirit of exemplary selflessness and of zealous devotion." Regarding the re-introduction of tolls in municipalities for vehicles other than motor vehicles, the board stated that "it was not in favour of the re-introduction of tolls in municipalities." Government Memorandum dated 9th August, 1932, permitting district boards

to appoint district panchayat officers and commending a scale of Rs. 150-10-200 as suitable for adoption, was then discussed and it was resolved " to leave the matter to the new district board to be constituted shortly." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Two special meetings of the newly constituted board were held on 14th December, 1932—the first for the election of a president with Mr. A.R. Cox, Collector and *ex-officio* president, in the chair, and the second for the election of a vice-president. At the first meeting, Mr. R. B. Ramakrishna Raju proposed that Rao Bahadur V. Raghunatha Reddi be elected president of the board. Mr. G. Rungiah Reddi seconded the proposal. There being no other candidate, Rao Bahadur V. Raghunatha Reddi was declared unanimously elected president.

At the second special meeting presided over by the newly elected president, two candidates—Messrs R. B. Ramakrishna Raju and P. Narayana Reddi—were proposed for the vice-presidentship. On ballot being taken, Mr. P. Narayana Reddi secured 26 votes and Mr. R.B. Ramakrishna Raju 18. Mr. P. Narayana Reddi was, therefore, declared elected vice-president of the board.

Kistna

An ordinary meeting of the Kistna District Board was held on 30th November, 1932, with Mr. K. Lakshmi Narayana Chowdari, Vice-President, in the chair. On Government Memorandum No. 34034-1-C., L. and M., dated 29th August, 1932, requesting the views of the board regarding the re-introduction of tolls in municipal limits for vehicles other than motor vehicles, the board stated that " it was not in favour of the re-introduction of tolls." The report of the district health officer stating that two films costing Rs. 1,216-10-0 and Rs. 281-4-0,

respectively, along with the cinema equipment supplied to the rural sanitation unit of Kistna caught fire with the result that the films were completed destroyed and the bandy badly damaged, was taken up for consideration. "After conducting an enquiry as to the cause of the accident, the health officer had to conclude that either a spark from a neighbouring source of fire, or, what is more probable, from the terminals of the battery, caused petrol to ignite and fire." He, therefore, recommended that the cost of the two films be written off "as they were destroyed due to accident and exact causes could not be correctly ascertained." Mr. A. Harineedu proposed that the loss be recovered from the mechanic and he be removed from service and this was seconded by Mr. K. V. Ramanayya; while Mr. B. Purnayya proposed that the amount should be written off and the mechanic should be removed from service and should not be re-entertained. Mr. K. Sitharama Rao seconded this proposal; yet another member, Mr. M. Ramaswami, proposed that the amount be written off, and Mr. K. Lakshmayya was the seconder. Poll was taken and Mr. Purnayya's proposal was carried by a majority. A sum of Rs. 2 per month was sanctioned towards the maintenance of a cat in the district board's office to prevent rats from spoiling the records of the office. On G.O. No. 38899-1-C, L. and M., dated 9th September, 1932, calling for the opinion of the district boards in regard to the rate of licence fees to be fixed for motor vehicles plying for hire on the principle of seating capacity for each vehicle, it was resolved by a majority that Rs. 50 might be fixed as the maximum per seat per annum. A sum of Rs. 5,000, sanctioned by Government for the improvement of village communications in the district during 1932-33, was apportioned as follows: Rs. 1,000 for each of the taluk boards of Bandar, Gudivada, Bezwada

and Nuzvid; and Rs. 500 for each of the taluk boards of Nandigama and Kaikalur. The correspondence relating to the construction of a bridge over the aqueduct at Puligadda was then taken up for consideration. " The cost of the bridge as originally designed was estimated at Rs. 1,35 lakhs exclusive of cartage charges which were not yet estimated. The Executive Engineer, Kistna Eastern Division, had informed that the additional cost of the bridge designed in accordance with the wishes of the district board would be about one lakh. He wanted to know if the board was prepared to contribute this sum of Rs. 1 lakh in addition to the cost of the bridge originally designed. The following resolution was passed on the same. " The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Madras, may be requested to kindly intimate the approximate cost of the bridge if it is to be clear of the maximum flood level so that the board may come to a decision after seeing by how much the cost exceeds." A sum of Rs. 1,000 towards initial expenses and Rs. 2,500 per annum for maintenance was sanctioned for the equipment and establishment charges of a maternity hospital proposed to be opened at Masulipatam. A budget committee consisting of the following members was constituted : All presidents of taluk boards, Messrs S. Venkatratnam, A. Punnayya, Ch. Satyanarayana, I.V. Rangaseetharama Rao, S. Narasimham and K.V. Subba Rao.

A special and extraordinary meeting of the board was held on 14th December, 1932, with Tahavar-O-Jaladat Dastagaha Sree Rajah Venkata Ramayya Apparao Bahadur Zamindar Garu, M.L.C., President, in the chair, to consider G.O. No. 4875, L. & M., Mis., dated 6th December, 1932, transferring the women's seat from Mylavaram circle to Kondapalli circle and the Muslim seat from Kankipadu circle and the Muslim seat from Kankipadu

circle to Bezwada circle. Mr. A. Gopalakrishnayya moved the following proposal: "In the district board meeting held on 14th February, 1931, it was resolved to allot the portion from Mylavaram to Chimalapadu as a district board circle with a Muhammadan reserved seat for it. Then the Government (*vide* Circular No. 4521, dated 24th November, 1931, of the Inspector of the Local Boards) did not accept the circles framed therein and directed to follow the revenue firkas as a unit for district board circle and fixed the reserved seats for them. Afterwards a sub-committee was appointed on 24th December, 1931. The sub-committee unanimously resolved to allot the Muhammadan reserved seat to Bezwada and the woman reserved seat to Mylavaram. Then in the special meeting of the district board held on 24th April, 1932, the resolution of the sub-committee was accepted, 22 voting for and 13 against. Afterwards the Inspector of Local Boards, after hearing all the parties and communities at a meeting held on 4th May, 1932, at Bezwada, sent his recommendation to Government. In that decision he allotted the woman seat to Mylavaram and recommended that the Muhammadan reserved seat may be allotted to Kankipadu circle having the largest Muhammadan population next to Bezwada as the Muhammadans in Bezwada circle were already enjoying special representation in the Bezwada municipality. The Local Government also agreed with the recommendation of the Inspector of Local Boards and published the notification accordingly. Taking all the above circumstances into consideration, it is against law and equity to bring the present Government order into effect and the changes cannot, therefore, be accepted." Mr. S. Venkiah seconded the proposal. Mr. S. Jagannadha Rao Naidu moved " that the board do accept the alterations indicated in G.O. No. 4675, L. & M., dated

6th December, 1932, as they are most sensible and just"; and this was seconded by Mr. Lakshmayya Naidu. At this stage, Mr. K. Venkata Ramayya moved "that the change be approved by Government positively as this change is much needed by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram, the President, District Board, Kistna." But this was disallowed by the chair as "out of order." Mr. A. Harineedu proposed "that a notification once issued under section 47 of the Act cannot be cancelled and revised either by Local Government or by the district board as it is highly illegal and *ultra vires*." Mr. Gh. Audinarayana was the seconder of this proposal. The propositions of Messrs A. Gopalakrishnayya and A. Harineedu were declared lost, and Mr. S. Jagannatha Rao's proposition was carried by a majority.

Nellore

A special meeting of the Nellore District Board was held on 29th October, 1932, with Mr. J. Venkatarama Rau, Vice-President, in the chair. Messrs K. Padma Naidu and S. Pitchayya who had ceased to be members of the board under section 56 (1) (h) were reinstated. Government Memorandum No. 32586-1-C., L. &. M., dated 2nd September, 1932, permitting the board to meet the entire cost of the work of special repairs to miles 154 to 167 of Naidupet Dugarazupatam road from railway cess funds, as requested by the board in its resolution No. 83, dated 30th June, 1932, was confirmed to satisfy the formalities laid down is sub-section 113 of the Madras Local Boards (Amended) Act, 1930. Another resolution of the board passed on 30th June, 1932, sanctioning from the railway cess funds advances of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively for the reconstruction of bridges over the Ubbalavagu and Gundalavagu in anticipation of

full grants from the Government in 1933-34 was again placed before the board and confirmed.

An ordinary meeting was also held on the same day. On Government Memorandum No. 34034-1-C., L. &. M., dated 29th August, 1932, inviting the views of the district board regarding the desirability of reviving tolls in municipalities in respect of vehicles other than motor vehicles, the board stated "that it was not in favour of its revival." Government Memorandum No. 32899-1-C., L. & M., dated 9th September, 1932, regarding the fixation of licence fees for motor vehicles was then taken up and the board resolved "that a licence of Rs. 48 be fixed per seat per annum." G. O. No. 3830, L. & M., dated 28th September, 1932, requesting the board that suitable amendments, where necessary, be made in its regulations for the grant of licences to motor vehicles for the transfer of licence from one motor vehicle to another and submitted to Government for approval was also discussed and the following regulation was framed: "When a motor vehicle licensed to ply for hire on a road becomes unserviceable during the period of the licence, the president, district board, or any person authorised by him in this behalf, shall, on the application of the owner, have power to transfer such licence to any other vehicle of the said owner which is intended to ply for hire on the same road without payment of fresh licence fees for the said quarter." To another memorandum from the Government calling for the views of the board in regard to the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway from or to pilgrim centres in the area of the local boards, the board stated "that it was not in favour of the proposal." Several subjects of a routine nature were also dealt with.

Ramnad

An ordinary meeting of the Ramnad District Board was held on 1st October, 1932, with Mr. R. Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi, President, in the chair. Mr. O. Rm. O. M. S. Lakshmanan Chettiar who had absented himself from the meetings of the board consecutively for three months was reinstated. The following resolution was moved from the chair and carried unanimously, all members standing: "The board places on record its deep regret at the untimely death of Mr. V. Sundaram Ayyar, B.A., B.E., district board engineer, and resolves to convey its heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family." An estimate for Rs. 280 for providing reinforced concrete sign posts and warning signals in the road from Aruppukottai Sayalgudi was sanctioned. On Government Memorandum No. 34034-1-C., L. & M., dated 29th August, 1932, regarding reintroduction of tolls in municipalities for vehicles other than motor vehicles, the board stated "that it was not in favour of the reintroduction of tolls in any form." The annual report on the administration of local boards including the village development fund in the district for the year 1931-32 was approved, and the following resolution was passed in this connection: "The board places on record its sense of appreciation of the valuable services of the president, the Rajah of Ramnad, at great sacrifice." The last resolution passed by the board was as follows: "This board resolves to contribute half the cost of maintaining a lady hospital assistant at Rajapalayam dispensary if the Sivakasi taluk board contribute half the net cost."

A special meeting was also held on the same day for the confirmation of the board's resolution No. 176, dated 28th August, 1932, sanctioning the diversion of Rs. 1,50,000

from railway cess funds to meet the deficits in the general fund of the district board in the budget estimate for 1932-33, owing to the fall in the revenue due to the non-adjustment of toll compensation amount. The resolution was confirmed.

South Kanara

A special meeting of the newly constituted South Kanara District Board was held on 1st November, 1932, with Mr. E. M. Gawne, I. C. S., Collector and *ex-officio* President, in the chair. After all the members including the president had taken their oath of allegiance, Khan Bahadur Haji Abdulla Haji Kasim Sahib Bahadur proposed that Dewan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Khan Bahadur Mahomed Schamnad Sahib Bahadur. Mr. K. Sadashiva Bhat proposed that Mr. A. Balakrishna Shetty be elected president and Mr. M. Padmanabha Pillai seconded the proposal. Ballot was taken and it was found that Dewan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde had secured 17 votes, and Mr. A. Balakrishna Shetty 22 votes. Mr. A. Balakrishna Shetty was, therefore, declared duly elected as president.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president in the chair for the election of a vice-president. There were two candidates—Messrs B. Srinivasa Baliga and K. Sadashiva Adiga. Ballot was taken and Mr. B. Srinivasa Baliga was declared elected by a majority.

An ordinary meeting of the board was held on 17th December, 1932. Mr. K. S. Adiga was unanimously elected as member to represent the board in the District Secondary Education Board. Mr. M. Ramakrishna Punja then moved the following resolution : "That early steps

may be taken by the district board to get at least half a dozen breeding bulls and half a dozen buffaloes and maintain them at different centres for the improvement of the degenerated condition of our cattle." The following amendment was moved by Mr. N. Kirwan and seconded by Mr. K. S. Adiga: "That this meeting commends that provision be made in the coming budget to establish breeding bulls and buffaloes." The amended resolution was carried by a majority. On Government Memorandum No. 38899-1-C., L. & M., dated 9th September, 1932, requesting the board to suggest a maximum rate of licence fees per seat per annum for motor vehicles plying for hire, the following resolution was passed: "The board is not in favour of the proposal as it will cause hardship on both sides and loss of revenue to the board. The board is for continuing the present system of licensing on the mileage." Dewan Bahadur S. L. Mathias was unanimously elected as representative of the district board on the advisory committee of the Government Headquarters Hospital at Mangalore. On Government Memorandum No. 28172-1-B-1, L. &. M., dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway, the board stated that "it was not in favour of the proposal." The draft administration report of the board for the year 1931-32 was passed and the following resolution was recorded in this connection: "The board desires to place on record its appreciation of the work done by the president, Dewan Bahadur B. Mahabala Hegde." A standing committee consisting of the following members was constituted: "The vice-president, Mr. K. S. Adiga, Mr. H. Dasanna Alva, Mr. Padmanabha Pai, Khan Bahadur Schamnad Bahadur, Mr. Ramakrishna Punja and the president. Three members will form the quorum." A

retrenchment committee consisting of the following members was also formed : "Messrs A. S. Mahabala Rao, M. Shiva Rao, Ramakrishna Punja, B. Srinivasa Baliga and the president."

Trichinopoly

An ordinary meeting of the Trichinopoly District Board was held on 20th October, 1932, with Rao Bahadur T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai, Avl., M.A., B.L., President, in the chair. Messrs R. M. Thylam Pillai and P. Peria Sakkarai Rowther who had absented themselves from three consecutive meetings of the board were reinstated. An estimate for Rs. 16,530 for constructing a girder bridge across the Panguni channel near Nagar village was sanctioned—Rs. 15,000 to be met from the railway cess funds and the balance from the allotment for Ariyur culvert. Some other estimates which had been sanctioned by the president in anticipation of the board's approval were sanctioned and the president's action approved.

Another meeting of the board was held on 1st December, 1932. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. K. Rajachidambara Reddiar were answered. The following resolution was passed : "This board conveys its most sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mr. L. N Gurunamasivayam Pillai, Mirasdar, Lalgudi, for his very generous donation of Rs. 2,000 for running a hostel for Adi-Dravida students of the Board High School, Lalgudi, started with the aid of munificent contribution made by Rao Bahadur Sabaratnam Chettiar." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

TALUK BOARDS

Adoni

A special meeting of the newly constituted Adoni Taluk Board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. C. Balagurunatham Pillai, Tahsildar, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. Karnam Kesava Rao proposed that Rao Sahib B. Thammi Reddi be elected president. Mr. K. V. Bhima Rao seconded the proposal. Mr. Y. Siva Reddi proposed that Mirja Hassain Beig Sahib be elected president, and this was seconded by Mr. Madiga Rangudu. Ballot was taken and it was found that Rao Sahib B. Thammi Reddi had secured 12 votes and Mr. Mirja Hassain Beig Sahib 4 votes. Rao Sahib B. Thammi Reddi was, therefore, declared elected president of the board.

Immediately another special meeting of the board was held for the election of a vice-president, with Rao Sahib B. Thammi Reddi, the newly elected president, in the chair. Proposed by Mr. B. Nilakanta Reddi and seconded Mr. P. Obala Naick, Mr. K. V. Bhima Rao was unanimously elected as vice-president of the board.

Ambasamudram

A special meeting of the newly constituted Ambasamudram Taluk Board was held on 16th November, 1932, with Mr. P. Muthukrishna Doss, Tahsildar, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members including the president had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. P. A. Padmanaba Mudaliar proposed that Mr. T. M. S. Sankara Thirthapathi be elected president of the board. Mr. K. Arunachalam Pillai seconded this proposal. Mr. S. M. Ramalingam

Pillai proposed that Mr. S. V. Vedamurthy Mudaliar be elected president and this was seconded by Mr. M. V. Subramania Mudaliar. Poll was taken and Mr. S. V. Vedamurthy Mudaliar was declared elected by a majority.

The board met again in the afternoon with Mr. S. V. Vedamurthi Mudaliar, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Two candidates—Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal and Mr. P. A. Shanmugasundira Mudaliar—were proposed and seconded for the vice-presidentship. Poll was taken and it was found that Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal got 12 votes and Mr. P. A. Shanmugasundira Mudaliar 5 votes. Mrs. Lakshmi Ammal was, therefore, declared duly elected as vice-president of the board.

Anantapur

A meeting of the Anantapur Taluk Board was held on 22nd October, 1932, with Mr. A. Kondappa, President, in the chair. On a letter from the district medical officer, Anantapur, requesting that a sum of Rs. 800 might be sanctioned towards the cost of equipment for the treatment of leprosy cases in local fund medical institutions, the board stated that "it was unable to meet the expenditure in its present financial condition." Proposed by Mr. B. K. Ramanappa Chetti and supported by Janab K. Hamidud-din Sahib Bahadur, the following resolution was passed: "The board places on record its appreciation of the meritorious services rendered to the board and the public by Mr. A. Kondappa, B.A., B.L., its President, from 1st July, 1925, and its vice-presidents, Messrs Y. Khasim Sahib, G. Ramiah, J. Chidambarappa and M. Narayana Reddi."

A special meeting of the board was held on 14th November, 1932, with Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi, the newly

elected president, in the chair. Proposed by Mr. K. M. Hamiduddin and seconded by Mr. P. Rami Reddi, Mr. V. Kesava Reddi was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on 16th December, 1932, for the election of a representative to the Excise Advisory Committee of Anantapur. There were two candidates, Messrs Pateel Subbi Reddi and N. C. Krishnamacharlu. Poll was taken and Mr. Pateel Subbi Reddi was declared elected by a majority.

An ordinary meeting was held on the same day. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. A. Peraiah were answered. The budget estimates of the general funds and elementary education funds of the newly constituted board for the period from 14th November, 1932, to 31st March, 1933, were approved. The following resolutions were then passed by the board: "Resolved that the proceedings of the board should be recorded in Telugu henceforth." "Resolved to address the Government to sanction the opening of a travelling rural dispensary with headquarters at Atmakur for the use of the people of Kudir firka." A profession tax committee consisting of the following members was then formed: "President, vice-president, member of the concerned circle, Messrs Pateel Subbi Reddi and Pateel Rami Reddi." It was further resolved that the president should assess profession taxes "on the recommendation of the above committee."

Badvel

A meeting of the Badvel Taluk Board was held on 21st October, 1932, with Mr. S. Sesha Reddi, President, in the chair. The revised budget of the board for the year 1932-33 was approved. A sum of Rs. 30 was sanctioned

for the celebration of the National Health and Baby Week.

A special meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 5th December, 1932, with Mr. K. B. Simon, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. Palakolanu Abbi Reddi proposed that Mr. Murikuti Gurivi Reddi be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Mr. S. Sesha Reddi. There being no other candidate, Mr. Murikuti Gurivi Reddi was declared elected as president of the board.

Another special meeting of the board was held in the afternoon on the same day for the election of a vice-president to the board. Mr. K. Venkata Reddi proposed, and Mr. P. Abbi Reddi seconded, that Mr. Chapalle Chenna Venkata Subbayya be elected vice-president. There being no other candidate, Mr. Chapalle Chenna Venkata Subbayya was declared elected as vice-president of the board.

Bandar

A meeting of the Bandar Taluk Board was held on 1st October, 1932, with Mr. M. Ramaswami Naidu, Vice-President, in the chair. The subjects deal with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 17th November, 1932. A committee consisting of the following members was formed for scrutinising the budget and revised budget of the board for the years 1933-34 and 1932-33, respectively: Messrs. S. Venkataratnam Naidu, M. Ramaswami Naidu, V. Venkayya, and R. Venkatakrishnayya. On Government Memorandum No. 28172-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the introduction of levying pilgrim tax on passengers

travelling otherwise than by train, the board recorded its opinion that "under the present circumstances it was not desirable to levy any pilgrim tax." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Berhampore

A meeting of the Berhampore Taluk Board was held on 13th October, 1932, with Rao Sahib P.V. Narayanarao Patrulu, B.A., B.L., President, in the chair. Dr. Robert Sahu Mahasayo invited the attention of the president to the following resolution passed by the Taluk Board Employees' Union on 22nd August, 1932, and requested to be informed whether it was a fact. "The Union records its deep sense of sorrow at the pitiable death of Mr. K. Narasimhamurty Pantulu, ex-headmaster, Rajapore, under pressing conditions, and deplores the action of the president, taluk board, in re-posting him to Rajapore without the least consideration of his health which was the immediate cause of his death, and conveys its sympathy to his bereaved family." The president, in refuting the fact, said that Mr. Narasimhamurty was posted to the place "at his own request in writing." To a further question from Dr. Robert Sahu Mahasayo whether the president proposed to take any action against the persons responsible for the above resolution, the president stated, "Yes," and added that he did not consider it desirable to encourage the continuance of the Union which passed such "irresponsible" resolutions. Further, a committee consisting of the following members was appointed to enquire into and report the names of persons responsible for passing such a resolution against the president, taluk board, detailing facts "which were not true": Messrs Trilohan Patro, W.V. Subbarao Pantulu and Dr. Robert Sahu Mahasayo. Mr. M. Trilochan Patro was appointed convenor.

Another meeting of the board was held on 21st December, 1932. On Government Memorandum No. 28172-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by train, the following resolution was passed: "This board is of opinion that the system of levy of pilgrim tax in vogue in Phandrapore municipality may be adopted." The report of the committee appointed by the board to enquire into the facts relating to a resolution passed by the Taluk Board Employees' Union against the president, taluk board, was taken up and the board resolved as follows: "The president is requested to take necessary disciplinary action against the persons responsible." The following resolutions were then unanimously passed: "This board and its subordinates resolve to have two bromide enlargements of Rao Sahib P.V. Narayanarao Patrulu, president, taluk board, one to be kept in the meeting hall of the taluk board office and another to be presented to him with a request to kindly accept it as a memento for his selfless, strenuous and devoted service to the taluk board." "The board deeply regrets the action of the Government in detaching Mandasa estate area from the present taluk board area and including it with the Tekkali taluk board and requests the Government to restore it to this taluk board as early as possible as this Mandasa estate has been with this taluk board since the year 1884." "This board offers its thanks to the outgoing presidents for the selfless work done by them during the period they have been in office."

Chittoor

A meeting of the Chittoor Taluk Board was held on 19th October, 1932, with Mr. Muthu Bangari Ramadasappa Nayuni Varu, President, in the chair. The draft

budget for 1933-34 and the revised budget for 1932-33 under the elementary education account were approved. It was then resolved that the girls' schools in Yadamary and Kanipakpatnam be combined with the boys' school in the respective places. By another resolution, the board sanctioned the opening of sixth standard in Aragonda Board Boys' School.

A special meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 5th December, 1932, with Mr. M. M. Chinna Dorai, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. M. B. Ramadasappa Nayuni Varu proposed that Mr. M. Chenga Reddi be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Mr. G. Guruvappa Naidu. There being no other candidate, Mr. Chenga Reddi was unanimously elected president of the board.

Immediately afterwards, the newly elected president moved that a vice-president may be elected to the board. Mr. P. Ramachendra Reddi proposed that Mr. G. Guruvappa Naidu be elected as vice-president. Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddi seconded the same. There being no other candidate, Mr. G. Guruvappa Naidu was declared unanimously elected as vice-president of the board.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 22nd December, 1932. The board resolved to take over the management of the Adi-Dravida schools at Paimagham and Chittapara from the Labour Department subject to the payment of a subsidy of Rs. 504. A committee consisting of the president, vice-president, Messrs P. Narayana Reddi and R. Chengal Reddi and Mrs. Bedford, was constituted to scrutinise the budget estimates of the board. Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddi was then elected as a

representative of the taluk board on the Excise Advisory, Committee.

Dharmapuri

A meeting of the Dharmapuri Taluk Board was held on 22nd October, 1932, with Mr. D. A. Kandaswami Chettiar, President, in the chair. On Government Memorandum No. 2799-A—1, dated 2nd September, 1932, requesting the board to state whether it was agreeable for the resumption by Government of the school buildings at Mangarai, Mottupatti, Periathallapadi, Pilparuthi, and Tiruvanampatti mitta "as the schools had all been closed down," the following resolution was passed: "As the board will revive these schools in due course, the board requests the Government not to resume the buildings." The correspondence relating to the return of certain papers, books, records and a harmonium taken away and detained by Mr. V. S. Kanjamali Chettiar, taluk board member, was placed before the board and the following resolution was passed: "The Kadatur market paper file and the book, 'How to conduct meetings' by John Riggs have not been received back in the office. As the first of the above records is very important, steps may be taken to recover the same legally." The following resolution was then passed unanimously: "This board requests the Government to kindly sanction the exemption from payment of school fees of all children of all the schoolmasters also in the employ of the board elementary and high schools as is the case now with the children of women teachers in the local boards' service."

Another meeting was held on 10th November, 1932. An estimate for Rs. 2,950 for the construction of the taluk board office building was sanctioned. The following resolutions moved from the chair were carried unanimously:

" That, in the opinion of this taluk board, the latest revised timings of the local train service and the curtailing of the same between Dharmapuri and Hosur on the other, as a result of which the delivery of postal mails from Madras and other connected places is delayed by seven hours (formerly 7 a. m , now 2 p. m.—an untimely hour of the day) and the closing of the tapal time also advanced by half an hour earlier than the usual time, viz., 5-30 p. m., has caused considerable inconvenience and dislocation of work in all public offices and other important business and commercial houses in the locality, not to speak of the personal inconvenience and trouble caused to the public ; and as, in the opinion of this taluk board, the linking of this important town by a timely train service with the mail trains to and fro Morappur and Madras, is a bare necessity and convenience for the local needs, this board resolves to appeal to to the South Indian Railway authorities at Trichinopoly to kindly reconsider and revise the present unsatisfactory and inconvenient timings and train service between Morappur and Hosur so as to remove and mitigate the serious inconvenience and trouble caused now by the same." " Since the taluk board, Dharmapuri, is to be bifurcated at an early date into two taluk boards of Dharmapuri and Harur and consequently the number of board elementary schools in each taluk board area will be small in number as not to admit of a separate education clerk's appointment, it is resolved that the education clerk's post sanctioned in resolution No. III (3), dated 31st August, 1929, in the time scale of pay Rs. 60—2—70 be abolished forthwith. The present education clerk, Mr. P. Muthuswami Ayyar, who on the abolition of the education clerk's post will revert as the second clerk of the taluk board office, Dharmapuri, will get the pay of Rs. 60 which he was drawing prior to his appointment as

education clerk in the time scale of pay Rs. 35-1½-50-1-60 —to take effect from 1st November, 1932. The last resolution passed by the board was as follows: "This board resolves to place on record its deep appreciation and profound thanks and gratitude to Mr. D. A. Kandaswami Chettiar President, for the very disinterested services rendered to this board during his tenure of office for three consecutive terms and at great personal sacrifice and inconvenience to himself, and for his uniform courtesy and kindness to all the members of the board."

Hindupur

A special meeting of the newly constituted Hindupur Taluk Board was held on 14th November, 1932, with Mr. K. Vasudeva Rao, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. L. Venkatanaranappa proposed that Mr. G. Rami Reddi be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. Sanjiva Reddi. Mr. Kadirappa proposed that Mr. K. Venkatasubbayya be elected president and Mr. K. R. Suryanarayanayya seconded the same. Poll was taken and Mr. G. Rami Reddi was declared elected by a majority.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. G. Rami Reddi, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. There were two candidates—Messrs K. R. Suryanarayana Chetti and L. Venkatanaranappa—who were proposed and seconded. Poll was taken and it was found that both got an equal number of votes, viz., five votes each. As the number of votes were equal, lots were taken and Mr. K. R. Suryanarayana Chetti won. He was, therefore, declared elected as vice-president of the board.

Kaikalur

A meeting of the Kaikalur Taluk Board was held on 5th October, 1932, with Mr. G. Surayanarayana Naidu, President, in the chair. G. O. No. 364, dated 9th March, 1932, advising that local bodies may adopt the system of adjusting the school hours to suit agricultural conditions in consultation with the inspecting officers was placed before the board and the following resolution passed: "Accepted to hold the schools in the mornings on Saturdays. Two hundred working days are fixed to elementary schools. The power to fix the hours for the opening of the schools and the several kinds of schools to which several kinds of vacations have to be fixed to suit the agricultural operations is delegated to the president." A committee consisting of the following members was constituted to frame the budget estimate for 1933-34: Messrs Kala Visvanadham Pantulu, Alluri Subbaraju, Vallabhu Tathayya and Adapala Gopalaswami Naidu.

Another meeting of the board was held on 23rd December, 1932. The revised and budget estimates under the elementary education fund of the taluk board as framed by the budget committee were approved. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Karur

A meeting of the Karur Taluk Board was held on 24th October, 1932, with Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder, President, in the chair. Taluk board resolution No. 158, dated 12th September, 1931, classifying the markets in the panchayat villages other than Pallapatti and Aravakurichi as taluk markets and fixing that 10 per cent net income which each of the panchayat markets fetched at the sale every year should be credited to the panchayat boards

concerned, was placed before the board along with district board resolution No. 301, dated 30th November, 1931, approving of the above classification and fixing the contribution at 25 per cent of the net income. The president, in his note, stated that, in view of the financial stringency of the board and also of the infancy of the panchayats, the board could not afford to contribute 25 per cent of the net income to the panchayats and that, therefore, the president, district board, might be addressed in the matter to fix the contribution at 10 per cent as was originally resolved by the taluk board. The board approved of the president's note.

A special meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. S. Raghavendra Rao, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. Krishnaswami Gounder proposed that Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Mr. Adi Kandaswami Chettiar. There being no other candidate, Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder was declared elected president of the board.

The board met again in the evening with the newly elected president, Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Mr. C. Kuppumuthu Pillai was the only candidate who was proposed and seconded. He was, therefore, declared elected vice-president of the board.

Another meeting of the board was held on 30th November, 1932. On Government Memorandum No. 28172-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by

railway, the board stated that it was "not in favour of the levy of pilgrim tax at present." A sub-committee consisting of the president, the vice-president and Messrs Krishnaswamy Gounder, Periya Sakkarai Rowther and Kandaswami Chettiar was formed for considering the budget estimate for the year 1933-34.

Karvetnagar

A meeting of the Karvetnagar Taluk Board was held on 3rd October, 1932, with Mr. D. Munirathnam Naidu, President, in the chair. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "This board resolves to thank providence for saving Mahatma Gandhi's life and to congratulate the leaders of the Caste Hindus and the depressed classes on their ratifying the Poona Pact and to tender Mahatma Gandhi its respectful greetings on the happy termination of his fast." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 8th November, 1932. A sum of Rs. 750 was sanctioned as contribution for the three years, 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33 for the maintenance of roads. On G.O. No. 28172-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway, the board stated that it was not in favour of the proposal.

Another meeting was held on 29th November, 1932. The revised and budget estimates of the taluk board under elementary education funds were approved. On G. O. Ms. No. 4395, L. &. M., dated 8th November, 1932, informing that the Government were not prepared to sanction the sum of Rs. 2 spent by the board on the purchase of the book called "Gandhiji in England," the following

resolution was passed: "The board requests the Government once again to reconsider the matter as the book was purchased with a view to know the reforms contemplated in the Second Round Table Conference." The last rssolution passed at the meeting was as follows: "This board places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. D. Munirathnam Naidu and Mr. C. V. Rangam Chetti as president and vice-president, respectively, of this board."

Kasaragod

A meeting of the Kasaragod Taluk Board was held on 25th October, 1932, with Mr. 1. Chikkappa Bhandary, President, in the chair. On Government Memorandum No. 14320-1-B-2, L. & M., dated 13th September, 1932, informing that the Government were not prepared to accept a deficit budget and requesting that a revised budget might be submitted by the board, the board constituted a committee consisting of Messrs K. Narasinga Nayak, A. Shanker Naik, Kunhi Kalanda Boary and K. Seshappayya to consider the subject. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A special meeting of the newly constituted Kasaragod Taluk Board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. M. Subba Rao, B. A., Election Officer, in the chair, for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. C. Manjunatha Pai proposed that Mr. Konoth Chathu Kutty Nambiar be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. K. B. Lakkanna Shetty. Mr. Kunhi Kalanda Boary proposed that Mr. I. Chikkappa Bhandary be elected president. The candidate having refused to stand for election the proposal failed for want of a seconder. Mr. I. Chikkappa Bhandary proposed that Khan Bahadur

Mahamad Schamnad Sahib be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. Kunhi Kalanda Boary. Poll was taken and each candidate secured eleven votes. Thereupon a lot was drawn in the presence of the members in accordance with the election rules. As a result Mahamad Schamnad Sahib was declared elected.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Khan Bahadur Mahamad Schamnad, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. C. Manjunatha Pai and seconded by Mr. P. Shankaran, Mr. K. Narasinga Nayak was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

The next meeting of the board was held 10th December, 1932. A committee consisting of Messrs K. Narasinga Nayak, Konoth Chathu Kutty Nambiar, C. Kunhi Kalandan, A. Shanker Nayak, P. Shankaran, B. Anantha Kini, Dr. C. Manjunatha Pai and the president was constituted for examining the financial position of the board and submit proposals to "meet the deficit in the next year's budget." Mr. K. Chathu Kutty Nambiar moved the following resolution and Mr. B. Venkappa Punja seconded the same: "That in order to encourage Indian industry and Indian trade, all future purchases of articles for the use of this board be made of Indian manufacture and from Indian firms whenever available." The resolution was carried with the proviso "provided these articles are cheaper and of good quality." Government Memorandum, dated 13th September, 1932, stating that they were not prepared to accept a deficit budget was placed before the board and the following resolution was passed: "The board finds it difficult to balance the budget especially as the board is a new one which has come into existence only in the second week of November last, and as nine months of the year have already passed. As the

former board has applied to Government for a loan with the object of balancing the budget, the board requests that the loan applied for may be granted and that the Government may be pleased to accept the original budget as submitted by the former board." Mr. K. Chathu Kutty Nambiar was elected as a representative of the board in the Excise Advisory Committee.

Lalgudi

A meeting of the Lalgudi Taluk Board was held on 24th October, 1932, with Mr. P.B. Krishnaswami Reddiar, President, in the chair. On Government Memorandum dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway, the board stated that it was "not in favour" of the proposal.

A special meeting of the newly constituted taluk board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. J. Moses, B.A., Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had been sworn in Rev. J. Maria Arokiam proposed that Mr. P. B. Krishnaswami Reddiar be elected president This was seconded by Mr. P. Puravikala Poosariar and supported by Mr. Sabji Sahib, There being no other candidate, Mr. P. B. Krishnaswami Reddiar was declared elected president of the board.

The board met again in the afternoon with the newly elected president, Mr. P.B, Krishnaswami Reddiar, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. A. Periyaswami Udayar and seconded by Mr. R. Venkatarama Reddiar, Mr. L.N. Paramasivam Pillai was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Another meeting was held on 1st December, 1932 Three committees—one for scrutinising the budget, one for

making arrangements at fairs and festivals, and the third for dealing with encroachment cases—were constituted by the board. Mr. G. Ramachandra Vanniar was elected as a member of the Excise Advisory Board to represent the taluk board.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 22nd December, 1932. The revised estimate and the draft budget estimate were approved and passed. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Madanapalle

A meeting of the Madanapalle Taluk Board was held on 6th October, 1932, with Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi, B.A.,B.L., M.L.A., President, in the chair. On a reference from the president, district board, Chittoor, requesting the board to state whether it was willing for the extension of the provisions of the Prevention of Adulteration Act as per conditions laid down in G.O. No. 281, P.H., dated 6th February, 1932, the board stated that it agreed to the proposal, but it was "unable to pay the Government any amount towards the cost of the scheme for want of funds."

Another meeting of the board was held on 26th December, 1932. On a reference from the president, district board, Chittoor, calling for the views of the board regarding the formation of a district cadre for its establishment, the board stated that it was "not in favour of having a district cadre for all the local board servants in the district." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Mangalore

A meeting of the Mangalore Taluk Board was held on 22nd October, 1932, with Mr. K. Sadasiva Adiga, B.A., B. L., President, in the chair. The following resolution

was carried unanimously: "This board desires to record its high appreciation of the earnest and meritorious services rendered by its able and energetic retiring president, Mr. K. Sadasiva Adiga, during his term of office at great self-sacrifice, and also records its thanks to the retiring vice-president, Mr. B. M. D'Souza, for his hearty co-operation with the president in the administration of the board's affairs."

A special meeting of the newly constituted taluk board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. N. Krishnappa, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. Rama Bhat proposed that Mr. A. C. Gonsalves be elected president. Mrs. Lucy Sreshta seconded the proposal. Mr. Koti Shetty proposed that Mr. T. Narayana Bhandary be elected president. Mr. K. Muthayya Shetty seconded the proposal. Mr. U. Govinda Kini proposed that Mr. M. Ganesha Rao be elected president and this was seconded by Mr. Kunhamu. Ballot was taken, and it was found that Mr. A. C. Gonsalves got 8 votes, Mr. T. Narayana Bhandary 7 votes, and Mr. M. Ganesha Rao 5 votes. The president ruled that Mr. M. Ganesha Rao who had secured the smallest number of votes "should be eliminated and the votes taken again." The result of the second ballot showed that Mr. A. C. Gonsalves secured 11 votes while Mr. T. Narayana Bhandary got 10 votes. Mr. A. C. Gonsalves was, therefore, declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. A. C. Gonsalves, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. There were three candidates—Messrs H. Damodhara Rao, B. L. Ahmed

and Mrs. L. Sreshta—who were duly proposed and seconded. In the first ballot, Mr. Damodhara Rao secured 8 votes, Mrs. Sreshta 7 votes, and Mr. Ahmed Saheb 5 votes. Mr. Ahmed Saheb having got the smallest number of votes, his name was eliminated and a second poll was taken, with the result that Mr. H. Damodhara Rao secured 11 votes and Mrs. L. Sreshta 10 votes. Mr. H. Damodhara Rao was, therefore, declared elected vice-president of the board.

Namakkal

A meeting of the Namakkal Taluk Board was held on 10th October, 1932, with Mr. V. Vasudeva Reddiar, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 12th November, 1932. All the subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A third meeting was held on 17th December, 1932. The following resolution was passed: "This board resolves to tender heartfelt thanks to Mr. V. Vasudeva Reddiar, Zamindar of Erumaipatty, who held the presidential seat of this board for the last more than four years and worked with great zeal for the welfare of the public, and to Mr. C. Kolandaya Gounder, vice-president of the board, who whole-heartedly co-operated with the president in all matters connected with this board."

A special meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 22nd December, 1932, with Mr. T.V. Muthuswami Iyer, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. K. Sengoda Goundar proposed that Mr. P. Singaya Goundar be elected president of the board. Mr. V. K. Peer Batcha Sahib seconded the proposal. Mr. M. Veerappa Pillai proposed

that Mr. N. P. Ponnuswami Reddiar be elected president and this was seconded by Mr. V.M. Naynappa Udayar. Vote was taken and Mr. P. Singaya Goundar got 11 votes while Mr. N.P. Ponnuswami Reddiar got 10 votes. Mr. P. Singaya Goundar was, therefore, declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. P. Singaya Goundar, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. Rangaswami Goundar and seconded by Mr. Sengoda Goundar, Mr. V.K. Peer Batcha Sahib was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Nanguneri

A special meeting of the newly constituted Nanguneri Taluk Board was held on 16th November, 1932, with Mr. G.S. Sundararaja Aiyangar, M.A., Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. N. Sundaram Aiyangar proposed that Mr. V. Guruviah Reddiar be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Mr. L.V.N. Marthandam Pillai. There being no other candidate, Mr. V. Guruviah Reddiar was declared unanimously elected.

The board met again in the afternoon of the same day for the election of a vice-president, with the newly elected president, Mr. V. Guruviah Reddiar, in the chair. Proposed by Mr. P. Nambia Pillai and seconded by Mr. P. Sasthankuttia Pillai, Mr. Sundaramoorthia Pillai was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

The last meeting of the board during the quarter was held on 24th December, 1932. Mr. P. Nambia Pillai was unanimously elected as a member of the Excise Advisory

Committee to represent the taluk board. The following resolution was then passed: "This board resolves to request the Government to reduce the land tax by a reasonable percentage in view of the economic depression and low price of paddy and other products and utilise the surplus revenue of Rs. 60 lakhs in granting the reduction and remission of land tax and thus ameliorating the sufferings of the landholders." A committee consisting of the following members was constituted to scrutinise the revised budget for 1932-33 and the budget estimate for 1933-34; The president, Messrs D.S. Asirvatha Nadar, L.V.N. Marthandam Pillai, S. Krishnaswami Ayyar and P. Nambia Pillai. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Narsapatam

A meeting of the Narsapatam Taluk Board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. D. Rama Rao Pantulu, President, in the chair. Regarding the desirability of forming a district cadre for the several classes of servants under local board service, the board recommended the formation of a district cadre. On a letter from the Secretary, District Anti-Tuberculosis Committee, Vizagapatam, requesting the board for a donation, the board stated that it was not in a position to contribute anything " in view of the present financial stringency." A Finance Committee, an Education Standing Committee and a Public Works Standing Committee, each consisting of six members, were then constituted. Mr. K. Venkataraju Pantulu was unanimously elected to represent the board in the Excise Advisory Committee. The annual subscription of Rs. 25 to The Madras Chamber of Local Boards for the year 1932-33 was sanctioned. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Nuzvid

A meeting of the Nuzvid Taluk Board was held on 11th October, 1932, with Mr. Kandimalla Sitharamarow Bahadur, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 26th November, 1932. On a petition from the villagers of Davajigudem and Allapuram requesting that the board might sanction some contribution for constructing a building for the board elementary school at Davajigudem, the board accepted to contribute Rs. 1,200 if the building was constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,400. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 19th December, 1932. On Government Memorandum, dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway, the board stated that it was "not in favour" of the proposal.

Palghat

A meeting of the Palghat Taluk Board was held on 27th October, 1932, with Mr. K. Koman Nayar, B.A., B.L., President, in the chair. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "This board places on record its high appreciation of the services of the president and vice-president—Mr. K. Koman Nayar and Mr. V. Damodaran Nayar, respectively—in the discharge of their duties.

A special meeting of the newly constituted taluk board was held on 28th November, 1932, with Mr. T. A. Narayana Iyer, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president. After all the members had taken

the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. C. Madhava Menon proposed that Mr. R. Vasu Menon be elected president. Mr. V. Damodaran Nayar seconded the proposal. Mr. T. Kesava Taravanar proposed that Mr. Kochumadhavan Nayar be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. M. Ramanunni Nayar. Mr. P. R. Ramanatha Iyer proposed, and Mr. M. K. Subramania Iyer seconded, that Mr. V. G. Sukumaran be elected president. On taking votes by ballot, Mr. V. G. Sukumaran got 12 votes, Mr. R. Vasu Menon 7 votes, and Mr. Kochumadhavan Nayar 2 votes. According to the rules, Mr. K. Kochumadhavan Nayar's name was eliminated and fresh votes taken. The result was that Mr. V. G. Sukumaran got 12 votes and Mr. R. Vasu Menon, 10 votes. Mr. V. G. Sukumaran was, therefore, declared elected president.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. V. G. Sukumaran, in the chair. There were five candidates—Messrs C. Gopalan Nayar, E. Krishnan, V. N. Velu, P. Kunhikrishnan Nayar and A. S. Muhamedmoideen Rowther—duly proposed and seconded. Messrs E. Krishnan and V. N. Velu withdrew their candidature. Ballot was taken to elect a vice-president among the remaining three candidates. In the first ballot, Mr. P. Kunhikrishnan Nayar got the least number of votes and his name was eliminated. In the second ballot, M. C. Gopalan Nayar got 11 votes and Mr. A. S. Muhamedmoideen Rowther also got eleven votes. Lots were taken, with the result that Mr. A S. Muhamedmoideen Rowther was declared elected vice-president.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 17th December, 1932. One committee to dispose of appeals and another committee to scrutinize the budget of the board

for 1933-34 were constituted. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Palladam

A meeting of the Palladam Taluk Board was held on 26th October, 1932, with Mr. R. V. Ramaswami Goundar, President, in the chair. On a letter from the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils requesting the board to forward its opinion regarding the desirability of having a district cadre of local board service, the following resolution was passed: "The board is of opinion that no change is necessary and that the *status quo* may be maintained." The board approved of the proposals of the District Educational Officer recommending the opening of a Board Muhammadan School with standards I to IV at Palladam with the provision of one of the teachers at Mangalam Board Muhammadan School, where the strength and attendance did not warrant four teachers. On Government Memorandum, dated 20th September, 1932, calling for the views of the board regarding the levy of pilgrim tax on persons travelling otherwise than by railway, the board stated that it was "not in favour" of the proposal. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Pattukottai

A meeting of the Pattukottai Taluk Board was held on 29th October, 1932, with Mr. A.Pl. N. V. Chinnu alias Nadimuthu Pillai, M.R.A.S., M.B.I.P.S., F.R.E.S., M.L.C., President, in the chair. On a letter from the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils requesting the board's opinion regarding the formation of a district cadre for the local board employees in the district, the board stated that it was "not in favour" of the

proposal. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "This board resolves to invite a distinguished gentleman to perform the opening ceremony of the new meeting hall building of the taluk board, Pattukottai, to name it after the present president, Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai, and to present the guest with an address."

Another meeting was held on 30th December, 1932, with Mr. S. Venkatarama Ayyar, Vice- President, in the chair. The subscription of Rs. 25 to The Madras Chamber of Local Boards for the year 1932-33 was sanctioned. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Pithapuram

A special meeting of the newly constituted Pithapuram Taluk Board was held on 15th November, 1932 with Mr. V. Satyanarayana, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. Allumalla Chandrayya proposed that Mr. Pillarisetti Rangabrahma Rao Naidu be elected president of the board. Mr. N. Seetharamayya Pantulu seconded the same. There being no other candidate, Mr. Pillarisetti Rangabrahma Rao Naidu was declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. P. Rangabrahma Rao Naidu, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president to the board. Proposed by Mr. Samudrala Bashyakaracharyulu and seconded by Mr. Allumalla Chandrayya, Mr. Nadakuditi Seetharamayya Pantulu was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Pollachi

A special meeting of the newly constituted Pollachi Taluk Board was held on 29th December, 1932,

with Mr. C. Kuttikrishnan Nair, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. S. Amanandi Gounder proposed that Mr. V. K. Palaniswami Gounder be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. S. Gopalaswami Gounder. There being no other candidate, Mr. V. K. Palaniswami Gounder was declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. V. K. Palaniswami Gounder, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. Komaraswami Gounder and seconded by Mr. Kandaswami Gounder, Mr. M. S. Senniyappa Gounder was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Ponnani

A meeting of the Ponnani Taluk Board was held on 31st October, 1932, with Mr. A. P. Raman, President, in the chair. Moved by Mr. R. Raghunatha Iyer and seconded by Mr. P. Krishnan Nair, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "The board resolves to record the confidence and the gratitude of the members of this board towards the president, Mr. A. P. Raman, for conducting the administration of this board successfully for the past four years and four months." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting of the board was held on 17th December, 1932. The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried unanimously: "This board resolves to request H. E. the Viceroy of India to levy a heavy duty on the imports of copra and cocoanut oil from Ceylon and other places into India, and thus prevent their

competition with the indigenous products of Malabar on which her population depends for a living." "This board further resolves to request the Commerce Member to the Government of India to refer this question to the Tariff Board for its opinion at a very early date."

A special meeting of the newly constituted taluk board was held on 19th December, 1932, with Mr. A. F. Mascarenhas, B. A., Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. T. P. Kunhunni Nambiar proposed that Mr. Krishna Menon, Perumpulavil, be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. M. A. Moidunni Sahib. Mr. N. Krishna Iyer proposed, and Mr. C. R. Thomas seconded, that Mr. A. C. Sankaranarayanan be elected president. Ballot was taken and it was found that both had secured an equal number of votes, viz., eleven each. Lot was, there fore, taken, with the result that Mr. Krishna Menon, Perumpulavil, was elected president.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. P. Krishna Menon, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. M. E Parameswara Menon and seconded by Mr. C. M. Mammukutty Sahib, Mr. P. K. Kunhammad Sahib was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Puttur

A special meeting of the Puttur Taluk Board was held on 5th December, 1932, with Rao Bahadur K. Venkatrama Naidu, B. A., B. L., President, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. V. Viswanathiah and seconded by Mr. P. Govinda Pillai, Mr. B. Muniratnam Naidu was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Ramachandrapuram

A meeting of the Ramachandrapuram Taluk Board was held on 21st October, 1932, with Mr. B. Venkatratnam Chowdhry, M. L. C., President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 10th December, 1932. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "The board appreciates the inestimable and valuable services rendered by Mr. B. Venkatratnam Chowdhry as president continuously for a period of ten years with earnestness and impartiality. His accessibility to all, giving a patient ear, nobility in his views, co-operation with the members, his patience and perseverance beyond all comparison have contributed to the efficiency of his administration and won the appreciation of the general public. The board, therefore, in recognition of the above, desires to place on record his meritorious services as president, wishing him long and prosperous life."

A special meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 17th December, 1932, with Mr. K. Subbarao, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. N. Satyanarayana proposed that Mr. B. Venkatratnam Chowdhry be elected president. Mr. R. Satyanaryana seconded the same. Mr. V. Govindu proposed, and Mr. M. Tatiah seconded, that Mr. G. Venkanna be elected president. Votes were taken, with the result that Mr. B. Venkatratnam Chowdhry got 12 votes and Mr. G. Venkanna 10 votes. Mr. B. Venkatratnam Chowdhry was, therefore, declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. B. Venkatratnam

Chowdhry, in the chair for the election of a vice-president to the board. Proposed by Mr. N. Satyanarayana and seconded by Mr. R. Satyanarayana, Mr. Mallidi Satyanrayana was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Salem

A meeting of the Salem Taluk Board was held on 31st October, 1932, with Rao Sahib S.P. Rajamanicka Pandaram, President, in the chair. The following resolution was carried unanimously, all members standing. "This board feels sorry for the death of Mr. R. Narayana Moopanar, Salem taluk board member, who has been co-operating with us for the last three years and expresses its sorrow to his family." The board sanctioned the opening of a board boys' school in Kattur village. The following resolutions were then carried unanimously : " As it is notified that the two passenger trains passing to the east and west in the Salem-Attur-Vridhachalam line through Kattukottai railway station at about 5 a.m. will not stop at Kattukottai railway station from 1st November, 1932, this board resolves that the railway authorities may be requested to pass orders so that the above trains may stop at the above station for one minute for the convenience of the public." " As this is the last meeting of the board, this board highly commends for the meritorious services rendered by its president, Rao Sahib S.P. Rajamanicka Pandaram, who has been running the administration of this board for about 3½ years and by its vice-president, Mr. T.V. Bangaru Chettiar, who has been the vice-president continuously for about 6½ years and expresses its genuine gratitude and thanks towards them." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Sermadevi

A meeting of the Sermadevi Taluk Board was held on 24th October, 1932, with Mr. K.A. Sivagnanam Pillai, President, in the chair. The revised scheme and schedules for the town extension at Ambasamudram were sanctioned: The following resolutions were carried unanimously: "This board wishes to place on record the able and efficient administration of the president, Mr. K.A. Sivagnanam Pillai for the last four years and seven months and the pleasant and tactful manner with which he conducted the proceedings of this board securing hearty co-operation of all the members of the board." "This board also places on record the able services rendered by the vice-president, Mr. A.S. Maragathasundiram Pillai, in the successful working of the board." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Tiruttani

A special meeting of the newly constituted Tiruttani Taluk Board was held on 5th December, 1932, with Mr. M. Govindaswami, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddi proposed thas Mr. D. Muniratnam Naidu be elected president of the board. Mr. P. Gopal Reddi seconded the proposal. Mr. C. R. Raghavalu Chetti proposed, and Mr. Rama Naidu seconded, that Mr. T. Doraiswami Reddi be elected president. Votes were taken, with the result that Mr. D Munirathnam Naidu secured 11 votes and Mr. T. Doraiswami Reddi 3 votes. Mr. D. Muniratnam Naidu was, therefore, declared elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. D. Muniratnam Naidu, the new president, in

the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. D. Panchakshara Reddi and seconded by Mr. P. Rama Naidu, Mr. D. Ramalinga Reddi was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Tiruvannamalai

A special meeting of the newly constituted Tiruvannamalai Taluk Board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. Venkata Reddiar, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Rev. Backianadham proposed that Mr. A. Ramachandra Reddiar be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. R. Appavu Nainar. Mr. P. S. M. Theerthagiri Chettiar proposed, and Mr. Sadasiva Reddiar seconded, that Mr. G. Ramachandra Reddiar be elected president. Votes were taken, and it was found that both the candidates had secured an equal number of votes, viz., seven each. Lots were, therefore, drawn, with the result that Mr. A. Ramachandra Reddiar was elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with Mr. A. Ramachandra Reddiar, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president to the board. Proposed by Rev. Backianadham and seconded by Mr. A. G. Narayanaswami Reddiar, Mr. A. Ramu Mudaliar was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

Trichinopoly

A meeting of the Trichinopoly Taluk Board was held on 26th October, 1932, with Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar, M. L. C., President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A special meeting of the newly constituted taluk board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. D. A. Ratnaswami Pillai, B. A., Election Officer, in the chair. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. A. Ponnuswami Mudaliar proposed that Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar be elected president of the board. This was seconded by Mr. Subramania Moopanar. There being no other candidate, Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar was declared unanimously elected president of the board.

Another special meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar, in the chair. Proposed by Mr. T. V. Narasu Pillai and seconded by Mr. G. J. Venkatachariar, Janab Mohamed Fakruddin Sahib Bahadur was unanimously elected vice-president of the board.

The Board met again on 30th November, 1932, and transacted business of a routine nature.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 22nd December, 1932. A financial sub-committee and an education sub-committee were constituted. The papers relating to the recovery of provincial subsidy on account of the temporary closure of elementary schools run with the aid of provincial subsidy were taken up for consideration and the following resolution was passed: "The taluk board strongly protests against the orders of the Government in regard to the refund of provincial subsidy for the temporary closure of provincial grant schools and resolves to request Government to prescribe a time-limit, and the refund of subsidy should not be insisted in the case of temporary closure of provincial elementary schools for a period of one month and below since the running of the provincial grant schools even with the full subsidy from

the Government is itself taxing the elementary education funds." The following urgent resolution was proposed by Mr. N. Angamuthu Ambalagarar and carried unanimously: "In view of the present depression and the fall in the prices of all agricultural products in almost all the villages in the Trichinopoly taluk area, cultivation is made impossible and the land owners and cultivators are not even able to get the return of the small amount they have spent on it. Hence under the circumstances, the land owners of this taluk area are utterly helpless and unable to pay the present kists. The board consisting of almost all the members owning a large area of lands resolves to request Government through the revenue authorities of this district to grant remission of kists till the time of rise in the prices of agricultural produce on the lands or, in the alternative, to grant remission of kists at least proportionately in accordance with the current price on the agricultural products during the kist season."

Vellore

A meeting of the Vellore Taluk Board was held on 22nd December, 1932, with Mr. K. P. Chithambara Mudaliar, President, in the chair. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Venkatachala Gounder and seconded by Mr. V. Kailasanatha Gurukkal: "This board resolves that the orders requiring unprotected persons or parents or guardians of such children in Vellore taluk to report the change of residence to the village headman on pain of prosecution may be kept in abeyance for a year and that the rule may be notified properly so that the villagers may come to know of the same." The resolution was carried unanimously and it was resolved that wide publicity be given of the rules to the villagers through notices and tom-tom. A committee was constituted to investigate and

report on the fixing of salaries of teachers, the number of teachers to work in different schools, the proportion of teachers of different grades to be recruited, and other improvements that might be necessary. Another committee was constituted to consider the question of the grant of harvest holidays to schools. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Vriddhachalam

A meeting of the Vriddhachalam Taluk Board was held on 14th October, 1932, with Mr. M. G. Parthasarathi Mudaliar, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting was held on 31st October, 1932, and the board transacted business of a routine nature.

A meeting of the newly constituted board was held on 7th November, 1932, with Mr. T. K. Subramanyam Naidu, Election Officer, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the Crown, Mr. S. Lakshmana Padayachi proposed that Mr. M. G. Parthasarathi Mudaliar be elected president. This was seconded by Mr. Kodi Sundaram Chettiar. Mr. D. Rajarathina Padayachi proposed, and Mr. R. Kadirvelu Padayachi seconded, that Mr. M. Shanmugam Pillai be elected president. But Mr. Shanmugam Pillai stated that he did not want to stand for the presidentship and withdrew his candidature in writing. Mr. M. G. Parthasarathi Mudaliar, being the only candidate, was declared elected president.

Another meeting was held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. M. G. Parthasarathi Mudaliar, in the chair for the election of a vice-president. Proposed by Mr. Lakshmana Padayachi and seconded by

Mr. Abdul Aziz Sahib, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned to 22nd December, 1932.

An ordinary meeting was held on 22nd December, 1932. The draft budget of the board for the year 1932-33 was approved. Mr. Ramaswami Naicker was unanimously elected as a representative of the taluk board in the Excise Advisory Board.

[The proceedings of the special meeting held on 22nd December, 1932, have not been received.—Ed. L. S. G. Q.]

UNION PANCHAYATS

Six meetings of the Arani Union Panchayat were held during the quarter with Mr. M. Kumaraswami Chetti, B.A., President, in the chair. At the meeting held on 23rd October, 1932, the panchayat resolved that taxes be levied on owners of goats at the rate of four annas per goat—the tax to be recurring. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

The Gopalasamudram Union Panchayat, at its meeting held on 25th November, 1932, with Mr. G. Sankaralingam Chettiar, President, in the chair, approved of the revised budget for 1932-33 and the budget estimate for 1933-34. Two meetings during the quarter were adjourned for want of a quorum. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

Four meetings of the Kilmangalam Union Panchayat were held during the quarter. Two were adjourned for want of a quorum. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

The Kottur Union Panchayat, at its meeting held on 26th November, 1932, with Mr. M.S. Senniappa Gounder, President, in the chair, sanctioned the subscription for 1932-33 to The Madras Chamber of Local Boards. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

At the meeting of the Melmangalam Union Panchayat held on 28th November, 1932, with Mr. K. Muthuvelu Pillai, President, in the chair, the subscription to The Madras Chamber of Local Boards for 1932-33 was sanctioned. At its meeting held on 26th December, 1932, the panchayat passed a resolution thanking the persons who contributed a sum aggregating Rs. 125 towards the construction of an office building for the panchayat. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

Four meetings of the Sembiam Union Panchayat were held during the quarter. The first two were presided over by Mr. Mir Sujjad Hussain Sahib, President of the panchayat, and the last two by the vice-president. The following resolution was passed at the meeting held on 5th November, 1932 : " In view of the strike of the M. & S.M. Railway employees at Perambur works, many of whom are the rate-payers of this panchayat, and the economic distress that will be caused in this area, this board expresses its sympathy and requests the railway administration and the Employees' Union to come to terms and thus bring this regrettable episode to a speedy and satisfactory settlement." Another resolution on the same subject was passed at the panchayat's meeting held on 13th December, 1932. The resolution was as follows : " This meeting of the Sembiam panchayat board, having watched the present strike of the railway workers at Perambur and having observed the peaceful and non-violent conduct of the men for the past six weeks, takes note of the distressed condition of their families and sanctions a sum of Rs. 1,500 for rendering relief to them, the sum to be placed at the disposal of the General Secretary of the M. & S. M.

Railway Employees' Union, Perambur." The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

A meeting of the Sendamangalam Union Panchayat was held on 15th December, 1932, with Mr. Iyamperumal Udayar, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Seven meetings of the Shiyali Union Panchayat were held during the quarter. As its meeting held on 28th November, 1932, the board passed a vote of no-confidence in the president, Mr. K. Chockalingam Chettiar. The president was not present at the meeting though he had sanctioned leave for the motion to be brought on 28th November, 1932, at the meeting of the panchayat held on 15th November, 1932. The subsequent meetings were presided over by the vice-president. At the meeting held on 2nd December, 1932, the panchayat placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Chockalingam Chettiar. The panchayat met again on 23rd December, 1932, and unanimously elected Mr. S. Vedagiri Mudaliar as the president.

The Sivaganga Union Panchayat, at its meeting held on 8th December, 1932, resolved that the Estate Collector or the Devakota Sub-Collector or some other officer be requested to open the new lighting on 11th December, 1932. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

Three meetings of the Tiruvallur Union Panchayat were held during the quarter with Mr. N. Rangaswami

Aiyangar, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A meeting of the Villivakkam Union Panchayat was held on 27th November, 1932, with Mr. A. Janakirama Reddiar, President, in the chair. On a letter from the president, taluk board, Saidapet, calling for the views of board regarding the maintenance of the dispensary at Villivakkam, the board stated that the dispensary was necessary in the village, " but the panchayat was not able to contribute more than Rs. 150 towards its maintenance." The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

LOCAL BOARDS AT WORK

LOCAL BOARDS AT WORK

[We are publishing below summaries of the proceedings sent to us of local boards' and panchayats' meetings held during the quarter ending 30th June, 1933. In order that a comprehensive view of the working of the local self-governing institutions in the province may be presented to the reader, it is requested that the presidents of the various local boards and panchayats may be pleased to send the proceedings of the quarter commencing from July 1933 and ending with 30th September, 1933, before the end of October 1933.]

DISTRICT BOARDS

Bellary

A meeting of the Bellary District Board was held on 30th May, 1933, with Mr. Y. Mahabaleswarappa, President, in the chair. A number of interpellations regarding the selection of contractors by the president, the appointment of a district panchayat officer, etc., were answered by the president. On Government Memorandum No. 9184-1-B-1, L. & M., dated 7th March, 1933, calling for application for loans of Rs. 30,200 and Rs. 24,900, for constructing a bridge across Medehal vanka and Garji vanka, respectively, the board passed a resolution requesting the Government to sanction half of the amount as grant and the other half as a loan repayable in thirty years at 4 per cent interest. Mr. A. D. Tandu Mudaliar was unanimously elected as member of the Government Headquarter Hospital Advisory Committee at Bellary. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Chingleput

A meeting of the Chingleput District Board was held on 29th April, 1933, with Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnaswami Reddi Garu, B. A., President, in the chair. The following resolution was carried unanimously. "This board resolves to have electric tramway service for passengers and goods between Madras and Poonamallee in the Aminjikarai-Poonamallee road, and requests the president to submit proposals for consideration within six months." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another meeting of the board was held on 24th June, 1933. A number of interpellations were answered regarding the discharge of certain servants under the district board, and the subsequent orders passed by Government, reinstating some of the discharged men. The president, in this connection, laid on the table the full correspondence that passed between him and the Government on the subject. After all the interpellations had been answered, Mr. M. Bakthavatsalam Mudaliar moved the following resolution: "That, in view of the fact that the Government have often been interfering unnecessarily with the orders of the president in regard to the discharge of certain local fund servants in connection with retrenchment, though it has been pointed out to the Government that such orders of the president are not in violation or contravention of any of the statutory rules and regulations issued by the Government under the Madras Local Boards Act, for the selection of officers and servants for discharge, which has after all been made in the best interest and proper administration of the board as can be evinced from the papers placed on the table today, this board places on record its appreciation of the president in

carrying on the administration to the best interest and credit of the board in spite of adverse circumstances." Being seconded by Mr. T. Appavu Naidu, the resolution was carried unanimously. Mr. M. Appadurai Pillai was re-elected as member of the District Educational Council. By another resolution the board agreed to pay an annual contribution of Rs. 300 from 1934-35 for the treatment of patients attending the Madras Corporation Infectious Diseases Hospital from within the Chingleput district board limits. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Chittoor

A meeting of the Chittoor District Board was held on 8th April, 1933, with Rao Bahadur V. Raghunatha Reddi Garu, President, in the chair. On a letter from the district board engineer requesting that the board be moved for the free occupation of the second and third class travellers' bungalows under the district board by all local fund officers on duty, and on payment of rent for the first-class bungalows only, the board resolved that facilities be granted to the local fund officers as suggested by the district board engineer. By another resolution, the board permitted the panchayat board, Elakatur, to lodge its funds with the president under the following conditions: "(i) That the money should always be available whenever wanted by the panchayat ; and (ii) that the balance according to accounts should always be kept ready and be produced whenever required by the inspecting officers. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature."

Another meeting of the board was held on 30th May, 1933. Government Memorandum No. 18850-A-I-2, L. & M., dated 11th June, 1932, advising the board to consider the desirability of introducing a provident fund

scheme in respect of those local fund subordinates in the district who were willing to join, was placed before the board and the following resolution was adopted: "The proposals to transfer the pensionary posts to provident fund posts are approved, while allowing the incumbents a choice in the matter. Resolved also to address the Government to re-adjust to the respective local boards all the amounts paid on behalf of such servants as pensionary contribution up to the date of transfer."

Kistna

An ordinary meeting of the Kistna District Board was held on 29th May, 1933, with Mr. K. Lakshminarayana Chowdari, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. A. Gopalakrishnayya proposed that all the subjects marked in the agenda be adjourned, that no tenders be accepted before the estimates were sanctioned, and that in the case of item No. 98 the suit need not be compromised but should be contested in court. Seconded by Mr. A. Harineedu, the adjournment motion was carried, 22 voting for and two against. Item No. 98 referred to a suit filed by Mr. P. Venkateswara Rao of West Godavari against the district boards of Kistna and West Godavari. The joint committee appointed by the district board in its resolution dated 23rd July, 1932, recommended that a sum of Rs. 80,000 be paid to the plaintiff in full settlement of his claims and that the suit be compromised.

A special meeting of the newly reconstituted board was held on 31st May, 1933, at Chilakalapudi, with Mr. E. R. Wood, Collector, in the chair for the election of a president to the board. Forty-five members, including the presiding officer, were present. After all the members had taken the oath of allegiance to the

Crown, Rao Sahib C. K. Reddi proposed that the Zamindar of Challapalli be elected president and Mr. T. Nagapotharao seconded the proposal. There being no other candidate, the Zamindar of Challapalli was declared elected president.

Another special meeting was held the same evening with Sri Srimanthu Raja Yarlagadda Sivaramaprasad Bahadur Zamindar Garu alias Challapalli Rajah Garu, the newly elected president, in the chair for the election of a vice-president to the board. Proposed by Mr. C. K. Reddi and seconded by Mr. Hanumara Appayya Chowdari, Gollapalli Rajah alias Meka Sriman Narayana Apparao Bahadur Garu was unanimously elected as vice-president of the board.

Nellore

A special meeting of the Nellore District Board was held on 30th June, 1933, with Mr. P. Govindu Reddi, M.L.A., Vice-President, in the chair, for the consideration of G. O. Mis. No. 4586, L. & M., dated 21st November, 1932, sanctioning the utilisation of a sum of Rs. 80,931 from the accumulated interest on railway cess funds for the improvement of second-class roads in the district. The vice-president, in his note, recommended that the culvert works on the Renigunta-Gudur road and Puthalapet-Naidupet road, and the bridge work at mile 68 (7) of Puthalapet-Naidupet road be given preference first. The following resolution was adopted by the board: "As a substantial portion of this amount has since been diverted for other purposes, the four works as proposed by the vice-president will alone be undertaken for the present from the programme of works received from the district board engineer."

Another special meeting was held on the same day to reconsider the resolution dated 20th April, 1933, declining to sanction the refund of license fees amounting to Rs. 72-2-0 applied for by Mahomed Abdul Sattar Sahib in respect of his motor bus for the quarter ending 31st March, 1933, "in view of the further representations made by him." The board resolved that the license fees be refunded.

An ordinary meeting was also held on the same day. The business transacted was of a routine nature.

Ramnad

A meeting of the Ramnad District Board was held on 17th June, 1933, with Mr. R. Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi, President, in the chair. The board resolved to convey its congratulations to the Rajah of Ramnad on his unanimous election as president of the District Educational Council, Ramnad. The following resolutions were then carried unanimously: "This board resolves that Harijan boys studying in the district board schools under our management be given free scholarship and books from this term beginning from June 1933." "The board is of opinion that early steps be taken for accelerating the work of the Partibanur-Tiruchuli road, as this is the important road connecting with the eastern part with the western part of the district. Much hardship is felt among all people for want of a shorter route and much delay and inconvenience is caused particularly during the rainy season owing to the necessity of crossing two rivers on the Kamuthi-Tiruchili road. It will also be of much advantage in bringing nearer the interior parts with the central places. Therefore, the board desires to place on record the desirability of the early completion of the road

which will be in the best interest of public good." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

South Kanara

A meeting of the South Kanara District Board was held on 27th May, 1933, with Mr. A. B. Shetty, M.L.C., President, in the chair. Dr. P. G. Achar moved that a model technical school for training in carpentry, smithy, cane work, weaving and dyeing, tailoring, manufacture of brassware, pottery, etc., be opened at Udipi with effect from June 1933. The matter was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Achar, Mr. Srinivasa Baliga and Mr. N. Rajan. The following resolution was then passed: "With a view to secure adequate representation to Christian, Muslim and other communities poorly represented in the service of this district board, this board resolves that special encouragement be given to such communities in making new appointments." Another resolution passed by the board was as follows: "That the district board meetings be held as far as possible in rotation in places outside the headquarters." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Trichinopoly

A meeting of the Trichinopoly District Board was held on 22nd April, 1933, with Rao Bahadur T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai, M.L.C., President, in the chair. The resolution of the finance committee recommending the abolition of the Thuraiyur market was approved. Letter, dated 13th February, 1933, from Mr. V. S. Mahomed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur requesting that the race-course road be lighted up with electricity till 10 p.m., was placed before the board, and the following resolution was adopted: "May be considered at the time

of the next budget. Meanwhile, the president is requested to address the municipality as to whether they are willing to undertake the lighting and whether they are willing to pay any contribution." Mr. K. C. M. Venkatachala Reddiyar was re-elected as a member of the District Educational Council. On a letter from Dewan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, Provincial Commissioner of the Boy Scouts association, appealing to the district board for a donation to meet the expenses of deputing an officer from the association to the International Jamboree at Goddolo near Budapest in August 1933, the board regretted its inability to make any contribution "in its present straitened finances." The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

TALUK BOARDS

Adoni

A special meeting of the Adoni Taluk Board was held on 25th April, 1933, with Rao Sahib B. Thammi Reddy, President, in the chair, for the election of a representative to the Bellary District Educational Council. There were two candidates, Messrs K. V. Bhima Rao and Y. Gadilingana Gowd, duly proposed and seconded. Mr. K. V. Bhima Rao was a member of the taluk board, while Mr. Y. Gadilingana Gowd was not a member. When ballot was about to be taken, one of the members stated that Mr. Y. Gadilingana Gowd may also be permitted to take part in the voting in as much as Mr. K. V. Bhima Rao was permitted to exercise his vote. The president refused the permission sought for on the ground that Mr. Gadilingana Gowd was not a member of either the district board or the taluk board or the municipal council. Anyhow, the result of the ballot showed that Mr. K. V. Bhima Rao secured seven votes, while Mr. Y. Gadilingana Gowd got eight votes. Mr. Y. Gadilingana Gowd was, therefore, declared elected as representative of the taluk board.

An ordinary meeting was held on the same day. The board recorded the proceedings of the Village Development Fund Committee, Bellary, with the remark that "the three pies land cess derived in each taluk and credited to the Village Development Fund be utilised for the purposes mentioned in section 114 (*a*) (4) of the Madras Local Boards Amended Act, 1930, in the taluk concerned without transferring to any other taluks, and that the establishment charges of the district panchayat

officer and his establishment be debited to the district board funds and not to the Village Development Fund."

Anantapur

An ordinary meeting of the Anantapur Taluk Board was held on 8th April, 1933, with Mr. P. Bayappa Reddy, Bar-at-Law, M. L. C., President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A special meeting was also held on the same day for the election of a representative to the District Educational Council, Anantapur. Proposed by Mr. C. Narappa Reddy and seconded by Mr. K. Narayanappa, Mr. P. Rami Reddy was unanimously elected as member of the District Educational Council.

The last meeting of the board during the quarter was held on 4th June, 1933. The draft administration report of the board for the year 1932-33 was approved. The board then cancelled its resolution No. 13 (8), dated 16th December, 1932, constituting a profession tax assessment committee, as the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils "opined that the constitution of such a committee was *ultra vires.*"

Badvel

A special meeting of the Badvel Taluk Board was held on 19th June, 1933, with Mr. M. Gurivi Reddy, President, in the chair, on a requisition signed by seven members of the board for the abolition of profession tax within the board's jurisdiction. Some members were for the abolition, while the rest were against the abolition of profession tax. Vote was taken with the result that a majority of the members voted in favour of the levy of profession tax.

Bandar

A special meeting of the Bandar Taluk Board was held on 15th April, 1933, with Mr. K. V. Ramanaiya Naidu, B A. B.L., President, in the chair, for considering (i) the notification appended to G. O. No. 3693, L. & M., dated 15th September, 1932, directing that a taluk board should be constituted for each of the following areas: (1) Bandar Revenue Taluk; (2) the portion of the Divi Revenue Taluk lying between the two arms of the Kistna river; and (3) the remaining portion of the Divi Revenue Taluk; and (ii) G. O. No. 1285, L. & M., dated 30th March, 1933, informing that the Government considered that "on financial and general conditions it would be better not to give effect to the said notification, but to direct instead the constitution of a taluk board for the three areas specified above." The board after considering the subject unanimously agreed to the proposal of constituting one taluk board for the three areas specified in the preamble. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Berhampur

An ordinary meeting of the Berhampur Taluk Board was held on 20th April, 1933, with Rao Saheb P. V. Narayanarao Patrulu, B.A. B.L., President, in the chair. Rao Saheb P. V. Narayanarao Patrulu was unanimously elected as representative of the board in the District Educational Council, Ganjam. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Chittoor

A meeting of the Chittoor Taluk Board was held on 8th April, 1933, with Mr. M. Chenga Reddy, B.A. B.L., President, in the chair. A sum of Rs. 25 was sanctioned

in connection with the presentation of addresses to the Honourable Ministers and Members of the Government.

The last meeting of the board during the quarter was held on 24th June, 1933. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Kaikalur

A meeting of the Kaikalur Taluk Board was held on 25th April, 1933, with Mr. G. Suryanarayana Naidu, President, in the chair. The president's action in having addressed the district board for sanctioning a contribution of Rs. 20,000 for the payment of works as the Government had, in their G. O. Mis. No. 1223, L. & M., dated 25th March, 1933, refused to advance Rs. 16,540 applied for by the board, was approved. A number of alienation proposals were sanctioned.

Another ordinary meeting was held on 20th May, 1933, and the subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

A special meeting of the board was held on 25th May, 1933, with Mr. Gajapathi Rao Naidu, Presiding Officer, in the chair, for the election of a president to the newly reconstituted taluk board. There were two candidates —Messrs Gudivada Suryanarayana Naidu and Pavarala Anjayya—who were duly proposed and seconded. Vote was taken and it was found that each candidate secured an equal number of votes, *viz.*, seven. The presiding officer, therefore, drew lots in the presence of the members present with the result that Mr. Gudivada Suryanarayana Naidu was declared elected as president of the board.

Another special meeting was also held on the same day with the newly elected president, Mr. Gudivada Suryanarayana Naidu, in the chair, for the election of a vice-president. The meeting was adjourned.

Karur

A meeting of the Karur Taluk Board was held on 31st May, 1933, with Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder, President, in the chair. Mr. S. Kaliana Gounder was unanimously elected as representative of the board in the District Educational Council, Trichinopoly. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Kasaragod

A meeting of the Kasaragod Taluk Board was held on 27th May, 1933, with Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C., President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Dr. C. Manjunatha Pai regarding the conduct of the headmaster of a school under the management of the board were answered. The board resolved that a few more Moplah mistresses be appointed in Moplah girls' schools under the board as there were no candidates in the district just to encourage Moplah female education which was now in a very humiliated condition. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Lalgudi

A meeting of the Lalgudi Taluk Board was held on 12th April, 1933, with Mr. P. B. Krishnaswami Reddiar, President, in the chair. The board approved of the draft Public Libraries Bill circulated by the President, Madras Library Association, and requested the Government to pass the same. A committee consisting of seven members was appointed to send up proposals if a compromise could be effected in the suit regarding the ownership of a tank in Melaseethevimangalam village. Mr. P. B. Krishnaswami Reddiar was unanimously elected as representative of the board in the District Educational Council, Trichinopoly.

The last meeting of the board during the quarter was held on 28th June, 1933. The recommendations of the committee appointed for effecting a compromise in the Melaseethevimangalam tank suit was accepted with the following remarks: "The compromise petition dated 28th June, 1933, presented by the plaintiffs was read over. As fishing in the tank was not in practice till now, there will be no right of fishing to any individual henceforth. The members of the committee accept this and the board approves accordingly." The draft administration report of the board for the year 1932-33 was approved with the following remarks: "The board places on record its deep sense of appreciation of the tact and ability with which our president and vice-president have carried on the administration of the board."

Mangalore

A meeting of the Mangalore Taluk Board was held on 1st May, 1933, with Mr. A. C. Gonsalves. B.A. B.L., President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. B. Rama Bhat were answered. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Namakkal

A meeting of the Namakkal Taluk Board was held on 22nd April, 1933, with Mr. P. Singayya Gounder, President, in the chair. The action of the president in having delegated certain powers to the vice-president was approved.

Another meeting of the board was held on 21st June, 1933, and the business transacted was of a routine nature.

Nanguneri

A meeting of the Nanguneri Taluk Board was held on 29th April, 1933, with Mr. V. Guruviah Reddiar,

President, in the chair. Mr. D. S. Asirvatha Nadar was elected as representative of the board in the district educational council, Tinnevelly. The board resolved that compulsory vaccination be introduced in all the villages in the taluk board area for one year as a trial.

Another meeting of the board was held on 19th May, 1933. A committee consisting of seven members including the president was constituted for the management of the endowed chatrams in the area. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Nuzvid

A special meeting of the Nuzvid Taluk Board was held on 12th April, 1933, with Mr. Kandimalla Sitharama Rao Bahadur, President, in the chair, for considering G. O. No. 1285, L. & M., dated 30th March, 1933, calling upon the board to show cause why the Nuzvid division and Gannavaram taluk should not be constituted into one taluk board on account of financial and general considerations. Some members were for the amalgamation, while the rest were for bifurcation. Vote was taken with the result that the taluk board resolved by a majority that there should be only one taluk board instead of bifurcating the same.

An ordinary meeting was held on 21st April, 1933. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Another special meeting was held on 20th May, 1933, to consider proposals for the division of the area into circles and reservation of seats for particular communities. Mr. M. Srinivasa Apparao Bahadur moved that the meeting be adjourned as the proposals of the president had not been circulated to the members. This was opposed by Mr. Atluri Sitharamayya. The motion for adjournment

was lost and the proposals of the president were taken up for consideration and accepted by a majority.

An ordinary meeting of the board was held on 20th May, 1933. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 6th June, 1933. Regarding the formation of a district cadre of local board services including teachers of elementary schools and vaccinators for the purpose of appointments, promotions, etc., the board stated that it was against the proposal.

Palghat

A meeting of the Palghat Taluk Board was held on 10th April, 1933, with Mr. V. G. Sukumaran, President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. C. Madhava Menon were answered. The board resolved that whenever individuals or companies paying income-tax were assessed to profession tax, it should be, as was clearly laid down in the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, based on the final notice of demand under section 29 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, served on such individuals or companies."

Another meeting was held on 22nd April, 1933. The draft budget of the board for the year 1933-34 was passed with certain modifications. The board resolved that a statement showing what all resolutions of the board had been brought into effect should be placed before the board once in three months.

Another meeting of the board was held on 22nd May, 1933. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. M. Ramanunni Nayar were answered. The business transacted was of a routine nature.

Ramachandrapuram

A meeting of the Ramachandrapuram Taluk Board was held on 20th May, 1933, with Mr. B. Venkataratnam, M. L. C., President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. Dwarampudi Rama Reddi were answered. The board sanctioned the adjustment of a sum of Rs. 10,000 as contribution to the elementary education fund. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Salem

A special meeting of the Salem Taluk Board was held on 26th May, 1933, with Rao Sahib S. P. Rajamanicka Pandaram, President, in the chair, for considering the proposals for reduction of expenditure on all establishments under general funds so as to enable the board to keep up to the maximum percentage of expenditure fixed by the Government as far as possible. The revised scales of pay proposed in the proposition statement were approved with effect from 1st June, 1933.

An ordinary meeting was also held on the same day. The board resolved to construct four bore-hole latrines on the four sides of Kondalampatti village. It was also resolved that a drinking water well be dug in Elampillai village. Another resolution passed by the board was as follows: "As the public find it difficult to cross the river Thirumanimutharu in Mallur-Veerapandi road owing to the depth of water in rainy and ordinary seasons, and, as it is found very dangerous to take carts across the river owing to pits, etc., this board resolves to construct an ordinary bridge four feet high and about ten feet broad, as the public of the place have promised to pay one-third of the net cost, and thus relieve them from this overlong anxiety."

Tiruttani

A meeting of the Tiruttani Taluk Board was held on 6th May, 1933, with Mr. D. Munirathnam Naidu, President, in the chair. The following resolution was passed: "This board resolves to request the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, to open a separate touring veterinary billet for Tiruttani division with its headquarters at Tiruttani to facilitate the ryots of this division to have easy access to veterinary aid."

Another meeting of the board was held on 3rd June, 1933. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Tiruvannamalai

A meeting of the Tiruvannamalai Taluk Board was held on 19th May, 1933, with Mr. A. Ramachandra Reddi, President, in the chair. The board sanctioned the levy of three pies in the rupee as education tax.

A special meeting of the board was held on 6th June, 1933, for the election of a representative to the District Educational Council. There were two candidates Messrs P. S. M. Theerthagiri Chettiar and T. S. Muthukumaraswami Mudaliar duly proposed and seconded. On votes being taken, Mr. T. S. Muthukumaraswami Mudaliar got eight votes while Mr. P. S. M. Theerthagiri Chettiar got only five votes. Mr. T. S. Muthukumaraswami Mudaliar was, therefore, declared elected representative.

Trichinopoly

An ordinary meeting of the Trichinopoly Taluk Board was held on 10th May, 1933, with Mr. Muhamed Fakruddin Sahib, Vice-President, in the chair. The board placed on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of the late Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar, the grandfather of the president of the board, who had been a source of immense

help to the public of the district and resolved to convey its resolution to the members of the bereaved family. The other subjects were adjourned.

Another meeting was held an 22nd May, 1933, with Mr. K. Singam Aiyangar, M. L. C., President, in the chair. Mr. Muhamed Fakruddin Sahib was elected as representative of the board in the District Educational Council. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "The board resolves to address the Government to sanction additional subsidy towards the maintenance of provincial grant schools and to bear the full cost of the maintenance. The board further resolves to request the Government not to insist on the refund of the subsidy on account of the temporary closure of certain schools in the taluk board. In the case of provincial grant schools not working properly, the taluk board should be given full powers to transfer such schools to the deserving localities in consultation with the deputy inspector of schools. The president is requested to present a memorandum to the Honourable the Minister for Education detailing all the difficulties in the management of provincial schools in the board, administrative and practical, and to wait upon him personally. This resolution will be communicated to the other boards in the district for their adoption in accordance with the difficulties they experience."

A special meeting of the board was held on 17th June, 1933. The board resolved to levy education tax at 25 per cent of the land cess in the taluk board with effect from fasli 1343, *i.e.* at the rate of 4½ pies in the rupee of annual rental value of all lands in the taluk. The board approved of the memorandum to be presented to the Director of Public Instruction and the Honourable the Minister for Education, and authorised the president to present the memorandum in person explaining the difficulties experienced

by the board with regard to the recovery of the provincial subsidies for the closure of provincial grant schools, and to waive the recovery under the circumstances stated in the memorandum. The travelling allowance for this purpose from Madras to Ootacamund was also sanctioned.

Vellore

A meeting of the Vellore Taluk Board was held on 4th May, 1933, with Mr. K. P. Chithambara Mudaliar, President, in the chair. The board resolved that a school be opened at Selamanatham. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Voyalpad

A meeting of the Voyalpad Taluk Board was held on 31st May, 1933, with Mr. N. Narayana Reddi, President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. V. Konda Reddi were answered. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

Walluvanad

A meeting of the Walluvanad Taluk Board was held on 22nd April, 1933, with Mr. Sulapani alias Kolathur Moopil Warier, President, in the chair. A number of interpellations put in by Mr. K. Krishnan Nair were answered. A committee consisting of seven members including the president was appointed to prepare a list of the weights and measures to be standardised in the taluk. The board resolved that class books and slates be supplied free to all Harijan boys and girls attending taluk board schools. It was also resolved that two cloths be supplied every six months to each of the Harijan pupils.

A special meeting of the board was held on 22nd May, 1933, on a requisition from nine members for

considering the question of re-establishing the Muthuthala school abolished in accordance with the Champion scheme. The proposal was considered and dropped.

The last meeting during the quarter was held on 17th June, 1933. The proceedings of the committee appointed for the standardisation of weights and measures were approved. The other subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

UNION PANCHAYATS

Three meetings of the Arani Union Panchayat were held during the quarter with Mr. M. Kumaraswamy Chetty, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

At the meeting of the Gopalasamudram Union Panchayat held on 29th May, 1933, with Mr. G. S. Sankaralingam Chettiar, President, in the chair, the draft administration report of the panchayat for the year 1932-33 was approved. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

At the meeting of the Illuppur Union Panchayat held on 11th May, 1933, with Mr. E. Subramania Varma, President, in the chair, the panchayat sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 2,850 for forming a road from mile 5 (1) of Trivellore Sriperambudur road to Illuppur via Valasavettikkadu.

A meeting of the Kilmangalam Union Panchayat was held on 22nd May, 1933, with Mr. K. N. Muthukaruppan Servai, President, in the chair. The business transacted was of a routine nature.

At the meeting of the Kottur Union Panchayat held on 24th April, 1933, with Mr. S. Muthusawmy Gounder, President, in the chair, the draft administration report of the panchayat for the year 1932-33 was approved.

Three meetings of the Melmangalam Union Panchayat were held during the quarter, with Mr. K. Muthuvelu Pillai, President, in the chair. The business transacted was of a routine nature.

A meeting of the Sembiyam Union Panchayat was held on 25th April, 1933, with Mir Sujjad Hussain Sahib

Bahadur, President, in the chair. The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

At the meeting of the Sendamangalam Union Panchayat held on 22nd June, 1933, with Mr. Aiyamperumal Udayar, President, in the chair, it was resolved that a temporary cut of Rs. 1-8-0 on the salaries of employees drawing above Rs. 10 per mensem, and Re. 0-8-0 on the salaries of employees drawing below Rs. 10 per mensem be made for two months with effect from 1st July, 1933. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

Seven meetings of the Shiyali Union Panchayat were held during the quarter with Mr. S. Vedagiri Mudaliar, President, in the chair. At the meeting held on 3rd May, 1933, the draft conditions embodied in the licenses to be issued for entertainments were approved. It was resolved, at the panchayat's meeting held on 21st June, 1933, that an address of welcome be given to Dr. Subbarayan, M. L. C., during his visit to Shiyali.

Four meetings of the Sivaganga Union Panchayat were held during the quarter of which three were presided over by Mr. S. Rm. Venkatachalam Servai, President and one by Mr. P. Arunachalam Pillai, Vice-President The subjects dealt with were of a routine nature.

The Tiruvallur Union Panchayat, at its meeting held on 31st May, 1933, with Mr. N. Rangasawmy Aiyangar, President, in the chair, approved of the draft administration report of the panchayat for the year 1932-33. The subjects dealt with at the other meetings were of a routine nature.

LOCAL BOARDS AND THE LEGISLATURE

LOCAL BOARDS AND THE LEGISLATURE

A meeting of the Madras Legislative Council was held on 23rd January, 1933, when Mr. M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state *(a)* the estimated income and expenditure of each of the undermentioned seven revenue taluk boards which have been ordered or proposed to be constituted: Chicacole, Parlakimedi, Tekkali, Chatrapur, Kodala, Goomsur and Aska; *(b)* the financial considerations which weighed with the Government not to bifurcate the Berhampur taluk board; *(c)* whether the question of financial position of a taluk board for the Berhampur revenue taluk and of a taluk board for the Sompeta revenue taluk was considered after or in view of the redistribution of taluks which came into effect on 1st July, 1932, in consequence of the abolition of Ichchapur taluk; *(d)* if so, what the estimated income and expenditure of the said taluk boards, if constituted, would be; *(e)* the income and expenditure of Berhampur, Chicacele. Chatrapur and Goomsur taluk boards in 1929-30, 1930-31 and 1931-32, respectively.

Answer: *(a)*

	Receipts Rs.	Charges Rs.
Chicacole taluk board	44,390	31,278
Parlakimedi taluk board	23,585	28,298
Tekkali taluk board	30,985	21,818
Chatrapur taluk board	17,440	17,350
Kodala taluk board	37,850	34,740
Goomsur taluk board	16,600	15,090
Aska taluk board	39,090	34,650

(b) and *(c)* The jurisdiction of the Berhampur taluk board originally extended over to the revenue taluks of Berhampur, Sompeta and Ichchapur. The last two were small areas and were each under the jurisdiction of an independent Deputy Tahsildar only so far as zamin villages were concerned. It was not, therefore, possible to constitute a taluk board for each of these taluks. Subsequently as a measure of

retrenchment, the Ichchapur revenue taluk was abolished, the Mandasa estate was taken away from it and added to the Tekkali taluk and the rest of the area was added to the Sompeta taluk. But the Deputy Tahsildar of Sompeta is still independent only so far as the zamin villages are concerned. A taluk board cannot be formed for such an area. (*d*) Without making any provision for works and excluding the elementary education account, the receipts and charges under the general account will be as shown below:

	Berhampur Rs.	Sompeta Rs.	Ichchapur Rs.
Receipts	34,500	21,560	25,520
Charges	36,090	20,010	18,390

(*e*) A statement furnishing the information is attached (not reproduced—*Ed., L. S. G. Q.*).

NEW BRIDGE ACROSS PALAR

On the aame day, Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) whether it is proposed to build a new bridge over the river Palar between Vellore and Katpadi in the place of the present bridge; (*b*) what the width is of the proposed bridge; (*c*) what the estimated cost is of the proposed bridge; (*d*) whether the width of the present bridge is quite inadequate for the traffic between Vellore and Katpadi; (*e*) whether the Government took any steps to have an idea of the traffic on Katpadi-Vellore road at present; and (*f*) whether the opinion of engineers about the durability of the present bridge is conflicting or not.

Answer: (*a*) Yes; the North Arcot District Board has made the proposal. (*b*) Twenty-four feet. (*c*) The cost is roughly estimated at Rs. 8,39,200. (*d*) The Government have no information. (*e*) No. (*f*) The Government are not aware of any difference of opinion in the matter.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar: May I know at what stage the proposal to construct a bridge over the Palar between Vellore-Katpadi stands?

The Hon'ble the Rajah of Bobbili: The estimate has, I think, been sanctioned, and the work will be taken on hand.

OVERBRIDGE AT RICE CAUSEWAY

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) whether the proposal to build an overbridge on Poney river at Rice causeway, North Arcot, has taken a definite shape ; (*b*) whether there was any proposal at all to build the overbridge across the Palar river at Wenlock causeway ; if so, whether that proposal was dropped and preference was given to the proposal of building the overbridge at Rice causeway ; (*c*) what the estimated cost is of the bridges at Rice causeway and Wenlock causeway, respectively ; (*d*) whether the whole cost of building the bridge is to be borne by the Local Government or partly by the Local Government and partly by the Central Government ; and (*e*) if it is the latter, what the proportion is of the contribution by the respective Governments.

Answer : (*a*) Yes. (*b*) and (*c*) The proposal was to build a bridge across the Palar close to the Melvisharam and not at the Wenlock causeway. The cost of this bridge was estimated at Rs. 10 lakhs but the proposal was given up in favour of the proposed bridge near the Rice causeway estimated to cost Rs. 6·25 lakhs only. (*d*) and (*e*) The question is under consideration.

INSURANCE PREMIA AND PROVIDENT FUND

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state the reasons for issuing G.O. No. 4650, L. & M., dated 2nd December, 1931, which modifies an earlier G. O. No. 3290, L. & M., dated 12th July, 1929, regarding concessions granted to local board and municipal employees in paying life insurance premia out of their provident fund, in the hands of their employers.

Answer : The restrictions imposed by the rules issued with G.O. No. 4650, L. & M., dated 2nd December, 1931, that the investments by employees of local bodies, of their provident fund accumulations in policies of life assurance should be confined only to subscriptions recovered from the subscribers and interest thereon and should not extend to the bonus payable by the local body also, are for the following reasons: (1) It is not wise in the interest of the employees to divert all the amount standing to their credit

in the provident fund, and (2) some reserve has to be provided to meet the payment of any amount due under a liability incurred by the subscriber to the local body.

CONSTITUTION OF PANCHAYAT BOARDS

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) the policy of the Government in regard to the constitution of the panchayat boards; (*b*) whether there has been any change of policy in the last two years; and (*c*) the number of panchayat boards in the province at the beginning of the years 1931-32, 1932-33, and now, respectively.

Answer: (*a*) The policy of the Government is to constitute panchayats for villages whose residents or a majority of them desire to have panchayats and where it is expected that the institutions will work successfully and to the benefit of the residents, and to make special efforts in this regard in districts where the response to the movement has not been adequate. (*b*) No, except that the panchayats which were originally constituted under the Village Panchayat Act have also been brought within the purview of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and that, for purposes of administrative convenience, the jurisdiction of panchayats is generally so fixed as to be co-terminous with one or more revenue villages and not parts thereof. (*c*)

Number at the beginning of the year 1931-32	3,898
Number at the beginning of the year 1932-33	4,474
Number on 31st October, 1932	4,499

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar: How is it, Sir, that the increase in the number of panchayats is by no means at the same rate as was the case in the previous year? Is it due to any change of policy?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: No, Sir. It is not due to any change of policy.

VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS AND VILLAGE WATER-SUPPLY

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state how the allotment for village communications and for village water-supply was distributed in the years 1931-32, 1932-1933 up-to-date by the Inspector of Local

Boards with reference to (i) the number of applications received districtwar; (ii) the number and value of estimates called for districtwar; and (iii) the amount sanctioned districtwar.

Answer: Two statements giving the information as far as available are attached. Information regarding the total number of applications received districtwar and the number of estimates called for is not available.

The statements referred to by the Hon'ble Minister are appended below;

Statement showing the allotment and expenditure for the years 1931-32 and 1932-33 (up to 31st October, 1932)—Village Communications.

Name of District	1931-32		1932-33	
	Allotment	Expenditure	Allotment	Expenditure
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Anantapur	4,579	570	2,245	113
Arcot, North	11,060	1,803	3,920	381
Arcot, South	4,122	829	860	304
Bellary	2,120	1,088	600	360
Chingleput	7,720	1,629	1,785	92
Chittoor	4,980	81	910	...
Coimbatore	2,686	2,340	460	...
Cuddapah	...	...	250	...
Ganjam	...	...	...	...
Godavari, East	54,802	29,540	22,504	6,144
Godavari, West	1,18,765	39,299	39.412	16,101
Guntur	1,00,880	32,741	28,457	15,306
Kanara, South	28,778	7,890	16,320	1,730
Kistna	25,831	11,455	3.920	706
Kurnool	311	...	...	...
Madura	...	...	...	...
Malabar	...	...	...	...
Nellore	925	...	1,040	...
The Nilgiris	...	...	...	...
Ramnad	21,360	2,173	9,190	974
Salem	19,581	7,786	4,015	2,132
Tanjore	12,924	3,398	2,350	1,450
Tinnevelly	3,595	1,621	595	591
Trichinopoly	5;409	429	1,690	688
Vizagapatam	2,081	84	1,350	...
Total ...	4,32,509	1,44,756	1,41,873	47,072

Statement showing the allotment and expenditure for the years 1931-32 and 1932-33 (up to 31st October, 1932)—Water Supply.

Name of District	1931-32 Allotment	1931-32 Expenditure	1932-33 Allotment	1932-33 Expenditure
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Anantapur	101	69	935	301
Arcot. North	6,039	626	360	...
Arcot, South	3,314	1,022	390	91
Bellary ... ... —	3,025	555	1,520	884
Chingleput	2,207	788	...	...
Chittoor	6,970	818	1,797	...
Coimbatore	3,410	418	165	202
Cuddapah	432	382	...	...
Ganjam	...	...	...	...
Godavari, East	7,456	5,912	765	432
Godavari, West	33.844	14,695	4,579	2,676
Guntur	27,602	7,373	2,740	1,098
Kanara, South	1,744	637	1,360	...
Kistna	19.800	10,747	2,656	2,244
Kurnool	35	...	...	...
Madura	1,595	703	123	57
Malabar	...	...	...	...
Nellore	625	...	700	...
The Nilgiris	...	...	...	...
Ramnad	6,141	1,815	150	111
Salem	49,041	20,595	10,420	2,912
Tanjore	34,835	12,062	4,337	* 4,426
Tinnevelly	1,409	327	480	...
Trichinopoly	14,764	5,548	1,792	1,273
Vizagapatam	191	...	...	...
Total ...	2,24,580	85,092	35,269	16,707

BILL TO AMEND THE LOCAL BOARDS ACT

On the same day Mr. S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur moved "that the bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 (Bill No. 20 of 1932) be taken into consideration." Mr. Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur seconded the Bill. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill is as follows:

According to the present Act, the proportion of reserved seats has been limited to 25 per cent of the total strength of the local boards. This rule has worked a great hardship in the matter of reservation for the Muslim community in that in several local boards the number of seats reserved for the Muslim community is much less than what it

* Includes establishment charges paid to district boards.

was before the amending Act of 1930. The idea of reserving a certain proportion out of this restricted number has also given rise to the mentality among general electorate that the maximum to which the Muslim community is entitled is the proportion that is reserved for them. So much so, in several boards there seems to be no possibility of any additional seats being secured for the Muslim community beyond the number that is reserved for them. It is felt by the Muslim community that the limiting of this proportion of reserved seats to 25 per cent and the limiting of seats for the Muslim community from among this 25 per cent of the reserved seats has greatly jeopardized the rights of the Muslim community and the chances of their being returned to the local boards. It is, therefore, sought to omit sub-clause (4) of section 9. Since the reformed constitution, the Muslim community has been allowed 15 per cent reservation in the Legislative Council of this Presidency. That itself has been found to be insufficient for purposes of exercising any effective influence over the decision of the Council. With a smaller proportion in the local bodies the Muslim community will never be able to make itself felt and particularly so when the strength of the local boards has been raised considerably. It is, therefore, felt necessary that the Muslim community should be ensured better representation in order to give them a feeling of safety and security in the local board areas. Hence the addition to sub-clause (6) of section 9.

Mr. V. T. Arasu, in opposing the Bill, said: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of Mr. Beyabani Sahib. One of the important provisions of the Bill, perhaps the only provision, is that in all municipal councils 15 per cent of the seats should be reserved for Muslims. Hon. Members are aware that there is already a provision in the District Municipalities Act providing for the reservation of a certain number of seats for Mussalmans very much more than what they are entitled to when their voting strength is taken into account. When that is the case, I fail to see why this Bill should be introduced to make it a statutory obligation on the part of the Government to reserve 15 per cent of the seats for Mussalmans, whatever their voting strength may be. There are instances of municipalities where Mussalmans do not form even one or two per cent of the population. If in those cases the Government are forced to reserve 15 per cent of the seats for Mussalmans it is only natural to expect other communities like the Christians and the depressed classes also to come forward with

similar claims. If the claims of those communities are also conceded, then the majority community, viz, the Hindus, will be reduced to an abject minority in point of representation. It is not fair to do so. Though some weightage may be given to backward communities the weightage should not be such as to reduce the Hindu community's representative strength. That will be the effect of the amendment. Therefore, I oppose this Bill.

Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiar moved an amendment to the effect "that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee" and said that he would submit the names of the members in due course.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: I second the motion of Mr. Narayanan Nambiar. We have not had the advantage of hearing what the Government have got to say in this matter. I am afraid the Bill has been taken in a light-hearted manner. In the absence of any considered opinion from the Government Benches, I have got to support the motion that it may be referred to a Select Committee so that more serious thought may be bestowed on it.

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion to refer this Bill to a Select Committee for the reason that at the time when the District Municipalities Bill was considered in the House we went fully into the merits of the case of the representation of the minorities in the various municipalities, and finally we came to the conclusion that 25 per cent of the membership of the municipalities might be set aside for the minority communities. This was considered only as late as 1930, and in 1932 we are asked to deal with a proposition to increase the percentage to 15 for Muslims. If this is accepted the various other minority communities will have to suffer. And further this being the only provision in the Bill, I think it is not necessary that it should go before a Select Committee; and so I oppose it.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Sir, speaking on the main resolution I should like to point out that it would be wrong for any of my colleagues to suspect that the Muslims in this province are regarding themselves as a separate entity and that they are grabbing seats in the municipalities and power in the State. That is not the object. When the Bill of 1930, which is now an Act, was being considered by the Select Committee, some of us brought up this matter before, the Select Committee and said that it would not be possible for the Muslims to get proper representation in a large number of municipalities,

where there is a large population of minority communities, among whom are included the Muslims. Recently elections were held and we know as a matter of fact that in many municipalities where the Muslims should have got a larger number of seats they could not get, for the one reason, that the very fact of reservation prejudices the minds of voters other than Muslims against them. They come to the conclusion that in so far as a certain number of seats has been reserved for them their candidate should not be supported whenever and wherever they stand for general seats. That is the kind of prejudice with which non-Muslim voters looked upon Muslim candidates in the recent elections. The result is that in most municipalities, where it was possible for a large number of Muslims to be returned they were not actually able to do so.

The other reason is that in the very allocation of seats in the wards, in the formation of wards and the reservation of seats for minorities, I mean for the Muslims in these wards, they have not considered one very important factor, and that is, they have not reserved seats for Muslims in wards where they predominate. The result is that even though there is no reservation the Muslims would have been returned. So reservation in a ward where members of that community could be returned without reservation is no reservation whatsoever.

And then if reservation was made in areas where there are not a large number of Muslims, it would be possible for them to get a larger number of seats than they actually secured in the various municipalities. These are certainly some of the disadvantages under which the Muslim community in this province is labouring on account of their being clubbed together with the other minority communities in the 25 per cent that has been allotted for the minorities.

And then, of course, I must say, Sir, in this province if at all there are any considerations to be made with regard to the classification of the communities, it is my opinion that they should not be classed in the way in which it has been done by the Government. If we have any communities at all in this province, they are only three in number, viz., the Hindus, Muslims and Christians. I cannot understand why more communities have been added on to the minorities class. Is it to take away the legitimate right of the three major communities? That is how the Muslims and the Christians have lost more seats than they actually should have done. If 25 per cent of

the seats had been allotted to the Muslims and the Christians I am sure they would have got a sufficient number more proportionate to their population. But as a result of the allotment of 25 per cent to minorities, what has happened is that the Muslims could get only one seat in very important municipalities, and not more than two in the major ones. Such being the case, they have seen how the Act has been worked in the recent elections, and so it is up to us to see, by this amending Bill, that the Muslims got their due share.

A point was made by Mr. Arasu, which came upon me as a surprise. He said that there may be municipalities where the Muslims may not be sufficient in number to necessitate their election to 15 per cent of the seats in them. I fear he has not gone into the statistics of the various municipalities. There is hardly any municipality where the Muslim population is less than 4 or 5 or even 6 per cent. Our population in this province is less than 7 per cent, and in the Government of India Act we have been allotted 15 per cent of the seats in the Legislative Council, and it is on that basis that Mr. Beyabani Sahib has come out with this Bill, so that even in the municipalities a similar percentage may be reserved for Muslims. We do not ask for separate electorate, we have come under the joint electorate, and if we, Muslims, are not given 15 per cent we will not get due representation. I hope my Hon. Colleagues will consider this matter favourably, and I am sure Government will come forward with their support to this Bill, especially when a member belonging to that party has tabled that motion.

Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam: Sir, if I oppose this motion it is not to be understood that I am not in sympathy with the demand of the Muslims for more adequate representation. In fact, as one representing a minority community in this Council, I should myself ordinarily have been in sympathy with any resolution which has, for its object, a more adequate and proper representation of all minorities than they are now able to obtain. But the resolution as it is now worded, I am constrained to oppose, for this reason that, if it be accepted, out of the 25 per cent which is set apart for all minorities together, the Muslims would take away 15 per cent, and the rest of the Christians, the Depressed Classes, the Europeans and the Anglo-Indians and the women representatives will all together get only 10 per cent. Why? On the proportion on which the Muslims demand 15 per cent we should be legitimately entitled to 8 per cent,

as we, the Christian community, constitute slightly over 50 per cent over the Muslim population. The result will be that just 2 per cent is left for the Depressed Classes, the Europeans, the Anglo-Indians and the women, all put together.

Therefore it is that I feel that with the main Act standing as it is with just 25 per cent and not more being reserved, if the Muslims are to be given 15 per cent, the resolution would be altogether unworkable. If the present Bill bad taken into account the interests not merely of the Muslims but also of all others who are now classified as minorities, I for one would have given it my most hearty support.

Mr. Hameed Khan, in supporting this motion, made it a matter for grievance that seats are generally reserved in wards or constituencies which are predominantly Muslim, or Indian Christian, or whatever community for which the seat is reserved, and which would in any case return a member of the community ; my friend ignores this fact, there is no constituency which is reserved exclusively for reserved seats. The reserved seat is always an adjunct to the general seat. And if a constituency is predominantly Muslim or Indian Christian, that constituency has got an opportunity of returning two members of the community instead of one.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan : Not two Muslims.

Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam : They may get two Muslims if the constituency is predominantly Muslim ; and in the same way, the other communities as well.

If, on the other hand, my friend had made this resolution an occasion for pointing out to the Government the insufficient or inadequate manner in which provision has been made for representation to the minorities there would be a better case for him. But with the Bill standing as it does, taking into account the interests of *only* one community, and that, if I may say so, the major minority community leaving out the minor minority communities, on whose support they could ordinarily depend, I feel that I cannot lend my support to this Bill. After all, the clauses of this Bill are so few in number that they could be easily disposed of by this Council and even if my friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, was really serious in his motion for reference to a Select Committee, which I think he was not, there is no case for referring the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. Yakub Hasan: Mr. President, Sir, the motion before the House is to refer the Bill to the Select Committee. So we need not here discuss whether the particular percentage demanded is correct or not. The Select Committee may pass any other proportion if it does not agree to this. We will leave it entirely to the Select Committee to consider the question of reservation as a whole, so that the Act may also be amended, and instead of the 25 per cent reservation that has been allotted in the Act, some other percentage may be put in. The Act may suitably be altered, and the Indian Christian community need not be alarmed at the percentage of reservation that is now claimed in the Bill by Muslims and they need not feel that any injustice will be done to their community. I am sure a decision acceptable to the Indian Christian community as well as to other minority communities will be arrived at by the Select Commitee.

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: Sir, I regret I have to oppose this Bill, but at the same time I wish to make my position clear. Neither myself nor the Government are opposed to communal representation. According to the Bill it is proposed to reserve 15 per cent of the seats to Muslims. Their population, I believe, is just a little over 6 per cent. The communal award gives them 13.5 or 13.6 per cent. Another clause in the Bill is to the effect that representation of Muslims should be 15 percent or more according to the population whichever is higher. In view of the fact that Reforms are coming and communal award will come into force, and in view of the fact that within the scope of the present amending Bill it may not be possible to make necessary adjustments as regards the representation of minorities, I would request the mover of this Bill to withdraw it so that at a later date when it will be possible to bring in a comprehensive bill allotting proper representation to all the minorities according to the communal award. I am afraid no useful purpose will be served by referring this Bill to a Select Committee as the original allotment of reserved seats in the Act is only 25 per cent. Unless many sections of the Bill are touched and recast, I am afraid it will not be possible to give effect to the representation of a single community. With these words I oppose the Bill.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the amendment that is before the House. It is true, Sir, that the Act was amended only so recently as 1930. But even at the time the amendment was made, the Muslim members of the Select

Committee did bring to the notice of the Select Committee the fact that the principles adopted in the Bill were pernicious and would not give satisfaction to the Muslim community. On that occasion, Sir, in a minute of dissent, myself and my Hon'ble Colleague, the Muslim member from Ramnad wrote thus, and I would like, with your permission, to read extracts from that minute of dissent which forms part of the published record :

"We are sorry that we cannot agree with our Hon'ble Colleagues in the manner in which they have proceeded to provide for the representation of minorities in the municipal councils. In this country the recognition of minorities can be, and has hitherto been, only on the broad basis of the divergence in religious beliefs and practices and difference in culture. In fact even this guiding principle has not always been kept in view. But the classification and the enumeration of minorities as recommended by the Committee seems to be neither on the basis of religion nor on any other approved or consistent principle. We can quite concede the population of a municipality being divided into Hindu, Muslim and Christian, depressed classes and non-depressed classes, or the Christians into Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians and depressed classes converted to Christianity or the Muslims into Shiyas, Sunnis and depressed Muslims of which last type we have a large number, for instance, in the Tirukkoyilur and Kallakurichi taluks of the South Arcot district. If it is contended that, from a national point of view, the division of the civil population according to broad religious differences is pernicious enough, to extend such a division to further and lower grades of the community is quite absurd and unwarranted and in our opinion this will certainly lead to the perpetuation of communalism, instead of minimising the separatist tendency or fostering the feeling of joint civic responsibility among the component parts of a single civic population. In so far as the depressed classes are part and parcel of the wider Hindu community, if the Hindu community feels it just and fair that the depressed classes should have representation in municipal councils, it should be a matter of mutual adjustment between the caste Hindus and the depressed classes and this can be easily achieved by certain conventions being established amongst themselves in connection with elections to the various wards in a given municipality. So also with regard to the Europeans, Anglo-Indians and

Indian Christians, neither of whom do possess any essential differences in religion, but form only different sections of the same community, called the Christian brotherhood. Nor does it appear to us that any of these sections of the Christian community have any interest which may be considered as special or peculiar to the one as distinguished from the other. In this place, we regret we have to deprecate the enthusiasm and zeal with which several of our colleagues strove to ensure reservation for the European community little remembering at the time their own self-respect or the treatment which is being meted out to their brethren in the colonies or elesewhere outside India. We, therefore, are of opinion that, having regard to the exigencies of the present political situation and the deep and unmistakable differences existing between the communities, the division of any civic population should be only as Hindus, Muslims and Christians, and that any further division of these communities will only be artificial and detrimental not only to the healthy growth of the population but also to the interests of the country at large.

Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiar : Is not this extract too long, Sir ? He is reading from a previous speech of his, I think.

The Hon'ble the President : May I know how that extract is relevant to the question now under discussion ?

Mr. Basheer Ahmed : It is not a speech, Sir, it is a minute of dissent. I am reading this to show what exactly was the reason for our opposition to the clause relating to the introduction of the 25 per cent representation. And that is exactly the reason why I feel my Hon'ble Colleague from Kurnool has brought forward this amendment in order to do away with the 25 per cent total reservation and reserve 15 per cent for the Muslim community or according to the population whichever is greater. That being the case, I think that the reasons then adduced could be as valid as they were, even today.

The Hon'ble the President : The Hon'ble Member may give his reasons *extempore* without going on reading from his own utterances.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed ; I say, Sir, that in the Bill the power of nomination which existed in the old Act was taken away. That power of nomination was much abused and it was abused by persons who were concerned directly with it or those who wanted to take advantage of it. Then, Sir, the substitute that was thought of

in the amending Bill was much worse. This 25 per cent reservation came in just to replace the power of nomination by the Government. And what was the result? Representations had to be made by the various communities to reserve a certain number of seats to each community in a certain ward or a certain municipality. In some others there could not be any reservation at all. A deputation had to wait upon the powers that be; or Members of the Legislative Council representing the various communities had to approach Members of Government to see that reservations were made in certain municipalities or local boards for certain minority communities. It was, I say, worse than the power of nomination vesting in the Government. So this 25 per cent reservation is a legacy of the old power of nomination vested in the Government. When they wanted to do away with nomination altogether, it was logical that even this 25 per cent reservation should be done away with. Instead of that, this is continued. What is the result today? In several municipalities we see only a few Muslim members where in the ordinary course there would be a larger number of Muslims. The reason why that has happened is this. The mentality created as a result of the reservation was very pernicious and proved detrimental to the interests of the minorities. The fact that there was reservation was working in the mind of every voter. Every man used to be obsessed by the idea that there is reservation for this minority and that minority, and they said, "we are not bound to vote for them." So reservation was all that they could get and it is all that they could hope for. In that mentality many municipalities and local boards could not secure an adequate number of some minority communities. It is only that defect that is now sought to be remedied, as I understand, by the present Bill. That being so, it is no use saying that it would work detrimentally against other communities if once reservation of 15 per cent is conceded to Muslims. Then you have to divide the whole lot among the communities according to population basis or any other agreed formula. I do not think for a moment that the position of the depressed classes or the Christians as a whole has been made better by the present amended Act. I would rather choose that they also give up reservation which creates nearly the same reservation mentality which is helpful to none of the minority communities. If there is no reservation, let us contest the seats on our programmes and on their merits. On the other hand, the fact that there

was some reservation for some minorities in any particular area works seriously against the members of those communities and they could not secure what they are legitimately entitled to. What has happened as a result of the working of this reservation is that in very many cases it has not worked to the benefit of the minority communities. It is in that view that this Bill is sought to be introduced. And if this Bill goes to the Select Committee, I have no hesitation in saying that it will confine the measure only to one minority community, but will consider the claims of all those minority communities who may be affected by the introduction of such a Bill. I, therefore urge upon this Council that this Bill must go before the Select Committee, and then, if the Select Committee thinks it necessary and desirable, let them make suitable amendments as may be possible. I may remind Hon'ble Members of the House that Select Committee has very often altered the very fundamental principles of Bills referred to. It might be open to the Committee to do likewise in this matter. I do not think any loss will be sustained by the Council by a reference of this Bill to the Select Committee. I, therefore, support this motion for reference to the Select Committee.

Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiar : Even after the convincing speech of my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, I am constrained to withdraw my motion for reference to the Select Committee.

The Hon'ble the President: I will have to put the withdrawal to the vote of the House.

Mr. Yakub Hasan ; Then, Sir, will you allow me to make a motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee?

The Hon'ble the President: The motion has already been made and discussed, and, therefore, it is not necessary for anybody to move it. That is exactly why I am putting the withdrawal of the motion before the House. The question is "that leave be granted to withdraw the motion for a Select Committee."

The motion was carried.

The Hon'ble the President: I will now put the main motion to the vote of the House. The question is "that the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act of 1920, Bill No. 20 of 1932, be taken into consideration."

The motion was declared lost. A poll was demanded and the House divided thus : Ayes 5 ; noes 61 ; and neutral 5.

When the Council met on 24th January, 1933, Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) what the districts are in which taluk and district board elections have been held so far under the amended Act ; (*b*) how many petitions from candidates alleging irregularities and other defects in the conduct of elections were received by Government from each of the districts in which local board elections have been held; (*c*) how the Government disposed of these petitions ; (*d*) whether the Government ordered re-election in any case ; and (*e*) if so, in how many cases and on what grounds.

Answer: (*a*) Except for two circles in the Tanjore taluk board and for the district and taluk boards in the Kistna district, elections have been completed in all the districts in the Presidency. (*b*) and (*c*) Numerous petitions were received, some by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and others by Government. In a few cases, Government set aside the orders of the Election Officers irregularly accepting or rejecting nomination papers. In some cases, where the poll had been stopped before the prescribed hour owing to the unruly behaviour of the mob outside the polling station or other causes a continuation poll was ordered in those stations on a fresh date fixed by the Inspector or the Government. Government ordered a fresh poll only in one case, as it was reported that a continuation poll ordered for two hours had proved infructuous. (*d*) The answer is in the negative. (*e*) The question does not arise

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar : In answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) it is said: 'Numerous petitions were received some by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and others by Government.'' In view of that, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to minimize the irregularities ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : The steps to be taken in each case should be considered on its merits.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar . In view of the fact that there were a large number of petitions alleging irregularities, may I ask if the Hon'ble the Chief Minister proposes to take some action in the matter ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I cannot answer a general question like this. If specific complaints are received, they will be investigated.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar : Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister satisfied that the conduct of local board elections all over the Presidency has been quite satisfactory ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili ; I cannot say that they have been quite satisfactory throughout. But Government did whatever lay in their power to have them conducted satisfactorily.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : May I ask whether Government contemplate issuing a report about the conduct of local board elections in this Presidency after the same is completed ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : There is no intention of doing so at present. If it is necessary, the Government will consider the matter.

ELECTIONS IN KISTNA DISTRICT

On the same day, Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (a) whether it is a fact that the period for the publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been extended from 4th December, 1932, to 22nd December, 1932 ; and (*b*) if so, why this extension was made in the Kistna district ;

Answer : (*a*) The date of publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been last postponed to 28th February, 1933. (*b*) A change in the holder of the office of District Election Officer and the receipt of about 80,000 claims for and objections to inclusion in the electoral registers of taluks except Gudivada contribute to the delay in the publication of the final electoral roll. Some twenty to thirty thousands claims and objections are also expected to be filed in the Gudivada taluk.

Mr. V. T. Arasu : Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister state the reasons which necessitated the Government to postpone the publication of the final electoral roll ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili ; The reasons are given in the answer to the question.

Mr. V. T. Arassu : May I know whether the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will be pleased to state as to who will have to bear the cost

of the republication of these electoral rolls, whether it is Government or the taluk boards ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : The taluk boards.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Is it suggested that the previous Election Officer omitted the names of 80,000 voters in the electoral rolls ?

The Hon'ble the Rajah of Bobbili : It was no case of omission, but that there were 80,000 claims for and objection to inclusion in the rolls. In all these cases, the claims and objections have to be examined so that the proper names may be entered in the registers.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi : Is it not that the large number of claims and objections was due to the extension of the period for receipt of objections ? Some three extensions have been made within a period of one month.

The Hon'ble the President : The Hon'ble Member will please sit down to receive an answer.

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : Extensions first of all were made at the request of one party or the other. After a large number of claims and objections were received, it was found necessary to extend the date, as each application has to be looked into on its merits and notices given to the parties.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : May I know who the parties concerned are who made representations to Government ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : The Inspector reports that in one instance is the Raja of Mirzapuram. Another is the Raja of Chellapalli. There were others also.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : On what grounds did they apply for extensions ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : They wanted time to submit claims and objections.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi : Has such extension been made in any other district than Kistna ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : Might have been made. I cannot answer it offhand.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Were the applications of the Raja of Chellapalli and the Raja of Mirzapuram made in a representative capacity?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: They made their representations to the Inspector of Local Boards, and the Government is responsible for the extensions so given.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Were the applications made only to ask for extension?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I will just read the report of the Inspector: "It will further be noted in this connection that the previous Hon'ble Member ordered that no election proceedings could be held during the Legislative Council sessions or when the Tanjore Conference took place. In compliance with this order, and in view of the fact that leading men of the Kistna district would be absent, the dates for the presentation of claims and objections were extended. The Raja of Mirzapuram wanted slight adjustment, and the Raja of Chellapalli represented to the Inspector that there should be a slight adjournment of the dates fixed for the disposal of claims and objections."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: May I know what the *locus standi* of these gentlemen is with reference to these elections?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I presume they represent their parties in the local boards.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Do the Government recognize the existence of such parties in the local boards?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: The Government have to take into consideration the several interests.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: May I know whether the district board of Kistna or the taluk boards concerned, did at any time, ask the Government to postpone the dates?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: No, Sir.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: May I ask whether there were any representations from the members of the public other than those quoted by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I cannot say offhand. I must ascertain it from the Inspector.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: May I ask whether the receipt of claims and objections was peculiar to this district alone or was it so in the case of other districts also?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I think there was a large number of claims and objections in this district more than in any other district.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar : What has the Legislative Council session or the Tanjore Conference to do with these elections in the Kistna district ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I cannot answer the question offhand. I want notice to look into the papers.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi : In addition to Kistna district Election Officer, will the Election Officers of Guntur and Ellore be ordered to dispose of these applications ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : The progress done by the present Election Officer in the matter of disposal will be examined, and if Government are not satisfied with the progress, additional staff will be appointed.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi : At the rate of the present disposals, it will take three or four months to finish the work ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I have already answered the question.

Mr. V. T. Arasu : May I know whether the district board of Kistna or the taluk boards concerned were ever consulted as to the desirability of postponing the dates already fixed ? If so, what was their reply ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I think it is necessary to consult them with reference to the disposal of claims and objections. Sufficient time should be allowed for the disposal of these matters.

Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu: May I know if the Government have cancelled the order already passed appointing an additional Election Officer for Guntur.

The Hon'ble the President: There cannot be any cross examination.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Kha : May I know what the peculiar circumstances of the Kistna district were which necessitated the postponement of election ?

The Hon'ble the Raja Bobbili: I have already answered the question. There were a large number of claims and petitions received regarding the preparation of electoral rolls.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: May I know when the elections will be held?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: After the claims and objections have been disposed of, a date will be fixed, but I am afraid I am now unable to give the exact date.

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Supposing it becomes necessary to postpone elections for six or seven months, will the Hon'ble Minister appoint an additional Election Officer?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I presume the elctions will be over in a month or two.

Mr. V, T. Arasu: When the Government thought fit to take cognizance of representations made by private individuals, may I know what prevented them from consulting the district board concerned?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: District boards are in no case consulted in regard to the postponement of elections.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: May I know if it is a fact that until the date was extended, there was no claim petition received?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: As stated in the report I read out, at the request of both parties, the date has been extended. First the date for filing claims was extended and afterwards, when a large number of claims were received, it was found necessary to extend the time.

ELECTIONS IN KISTNA DISTRICT

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) whether Kistna is the only district in which elections to the local boards are not yet held; (*b*) whether in respect of the Kistna district local board elections the period for receiving claims and objections has been extended from 15th November, 1932, to 1st December, 1932, and again to 10th December, 1932, and the period for publication of final roll of voters has been extended from 4th December, 1932, to 22nd December, 1932, and then to 3rd January, 1933, and again to 10th January, 1933; and (*c*) why so many extensions have been made.

Answer: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative. (*b*) The period for publication of claims and objections has been last extended upto

10th January, 1933, and that for the publication of the final electoral roll upto the 28th February, 1933. (*c*) A change of the District Election Officer, and the receipt of about 80,000 claims for and objections to the inclusion in the electoral registers of taluks (except Gudivada) contribute to the delay in the publication of the final roll. Some twenty to thirty thousand claims and objections are also expected to be filed in the Gudivada taluk.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : May I know if any claims and petitions were received before the first extension of the date ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I had not asked for that information in the report. I presume that some claims might have been received before the first extension. Owing to the large number of claims and objections the parties wanted to present, they asked for extension.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar : In view of the large number of claims filed and in view of the fact that the date has been fixed as 28th February for the publication of the electoral rolls, will the Hon'ble Minister take the necessary steps to see that all the claims are disposed of before then and that what he has undertaken is carried out ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I would see that the necessary steps are taken to dispose of the claims and objections in time.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan : When was the claim of the Raja of Mirzapuram made ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan : Was it before or after the Hon'ble the Chief Minister took office.

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I think it was before I took office.

Mr. V. T. Arasu : May I know whether the Government would act as in the case of the Kistna district if similar objections are received on similar occasions in respect of other districts ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : If any representation is made and the Government feel that it is worthy of consideration, they will consider.

Mr. V. T. Arasu : Do the Government feel that the petitions filed by the Rajas of Mirzapuram and Chellapalli are reasonable and that they should interfere ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : Yes, Sir.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Were the representations of the Rajas of Chellapalli and Mirzapuram made simultaneously ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : No.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan : Whose was received earlier ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I cannot say.

EXEMPTION OF BURMAH-SHELL MOTOR LORRIES

Mr. M. D. T. Ranganatha Mudaliar asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) whether it is a fact that Government orders have been sent to local boards and municipalities directing them not to levy fees for the petrol and oil lorries owned by the Burmah-Shell Company running in the muffusil ; (*b*) whether such order is in conformity with the provisions of the several Acts relating thereto ; (*c*) what the special reasons are which actuated the Government in issuing such orders ; (*d*) how many such lorries are being run in this Presidency both by the Burmah-Shell Company and other petrol companies ; (*e*) what will be the total amount of loss which the local boards and municipalities incur on account of such exemption ; (*f*) whether they are private lorries or lorries owned by business firms for the purpose of conveying petrol from one place to another ; (*g*) whether such exemption applies or has been granted to the Standard Oil Company and other similar companies ; and (*h*) if not, the reasons why the exemption has not been granted to all petrol companies ?

Answer : (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) G. Os. No. 781, L. & M., dated 29th February, 1932, and No. 1263, L. & M., dated 6th April 1932, are laid on the table. (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The Government have no information. (*g*) and (*h*) The orders quoted above are applicable to all private lorries.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: May I know the reason why the Government thought fit to exempt lorries belonging to the Burmah-Shell Company from the payment of licence fees when they are making money out of them?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: The Government made no distinction whatever between these lorries and other lorries. The

Committee appointed to examine the incidence of taxation recommended that all private vehicles should be exempted.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: Do the Government think that the lorries owned by the above company are private lorries and are not used in furtherance of their trade?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : As they are not plying for hire, they come under the category of private lorries.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: In view of the fact that these lorries use the roads more frequently than even lorries plying for hire, will the Government revise their order and direct them to pay the usual licence fee?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: If they are hired lorries, certainly they would have to pay.

Mr. Yakub Hasan: Are the lorries employed by other firms for carrying goods also exempt from this tax ?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I think so.

TOLLS FOR NON-MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. A. B. Shetty asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) what percentage of the toll fees was collected from motor and non-motor vehicles respectively in each of the three years preceding the year in which the abolition of tolls came into effect; and (*b*) whether the Government have considered the question of reintroducing tolls for non-motor vehicles.

Answer: (*a*) The Government have no information. (*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty: With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know whether the Government ever considered it necessary to obtain information in connection with the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I do not think it is possible to have the information.

Mr. A. B. Shetty: May I know whether, in connexion with the examination of the question of the reintroduction of tolls for non-motor vehicles, the Government think of obtaining this information?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili : I am afraid it is not possible to obtain this information as the receipts from motor vehicles are not separately shown in the books.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta: May I know if even an approximate estimate cannot be got?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: Even when the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill was under consideration, the Government made an attempt to get this information, but it was found impossible to get it.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: In answer to (*b*) it is stated that the Government are considering the matter. When they have not got the data on the basis of which they have to consider the matter, what is it that they are considering.

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: They have got sufficient data for total receipts, but no accurate information about the receipts from motor vehicles and non-motor vehicles separately.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta: May I know whether approximate figures cannot be got from the various municipalities in connection with this matter?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I am afraid, no.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta: May I ask the Hon'ble Minister to call for this information?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I will consider the question, but I am afraid it is not possible to get accurate information.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: May I know whether the Government have received representations from the public at large protesting against the introduction of tolls for non-motor vehicles?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: Many representations have been received for and against. The question was placed before the Advisory Committee for Local and Municipal affairs and a decision was taken.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: From whom were representations for the introduction of tolls received? Were they from the municipalities or from the public at large?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: Representations were received from the municipalities as well as from persons interested in the better upkeep of roads.

Mr. V. T. Arasu: May I know the names of such persons?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili; I cannot give the names offhand.

STIPENDS FOR PUPIL-TEACHERS

When the Council met on 25th January, 1933, Mr. A. B. Shetty asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Excise to state (*a*) whether the Government propose to restore the cut in the stipends of pupil-teachers in elementary training schools in 1932-33 ; (*b*) whether any representation has been received from pupil-teachers in secondary training schools for the restoration of stipends from next year ; and (*c*) if so, what the Government propose to do in the matter ?

Answer : (*a*) No. (*b*) No representation has been received by Government : (*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. A. B. Shetty : May I know why the Government do not propose to restore the cut ?

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar : These cuts have been made as a permanent measure and not as a temporary one.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar : Was it done because Government thought the fall in prices would be a permanent one ?

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar : No, Sir; on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee who went carefully into the matter.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar : Was the recommendation of the Committee to give retrospective effect ?

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar : This question does not relate to retrospective effect.

PROVINCIALISATION OF SERVICES

On 26th January, 1933, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiar introduced a Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 (Bill No. 2 of 1933), and moved "that it be referred to a Select Committee." Mr. C. Basudev seconded it.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill referred to is as follows :

The present legal position regarding the appointment and control of district board engineers, district health officers and district panchayat officers is not satisfactory. Under section 69 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the district board has power to appoint these officers subject to the approval of the Local Government. In practice, however, district board engineers and district health officers are all appointed by the Local Government. In the interests of efficiency, it is considered that these important appointments should

be under the control of the Government so that the incumbents may devote their whole time to the performance of their duties unhampered by the influence of local politics. New section 73-A inserted by clause (2) of the Bill enables the Local Government to take power to appoint and control the district board engineer, the district health officer or the district panchayat officer, in the case of any district board or any class of district boards.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar, speaking on the Bill, said: Sir, You will see from the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill that it is intended to regulate the appointment of district board engineers and district health officers. I suggest that the assistant engineers also should be brought within the purview of the Bill. (A voice: The Select Committee can do it.) I do not see any reason why this particular class should be left out. Their position and influence are the same as those of the municipal engineers. Whatever reason exists now for the inclusion of the engineers and health officers under the Bill, it exists, I suggest, in the case of the assistant engineers also. I consider, therefore, that they should be included in the Bill.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Sir, I wonder at the transformation that has taken place in the case of my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar. He was at one time a strong advocate of the extension of local self-government. Sir, no doubt there have been certain complaints about the inefficient management of local self-governing institutions by non-official chairmen.

But that was, I should think, a state of affairs that was hardly anticipated. It was never thought that the non-official chairmen who have had till then the experience of conducting the affairs of self-governing institutions would in the first instance mismanage their affairs and although subsequent events have proved otherwise that should be no reason to cut away the powers which it was the intention of the Legislature to confer upon non-official bodies. Instead of cutting away all these powers, it should be the duty of every one who is interested in inculcating ideas of self-government to the people to help them by giving them such powers as the exercise of which would bring them more reason and more sense in the administration of the affairs of those bodies. Sir, if inefficiency of office management should be the criterion or the reason to divest those gentlemen of the powers which they now enjoy, I am afraid there are several institutions

which require similar treatment. May I not remind the Hon'ble Member for Bellary that there has always been a complaint against the Indians by Englishmen that we were not experienced in managing our affairs, that we would commit mistakes and that, therefore, we were not entitled for more powers. When all these were said how hotly we resented those kinds of insinuations and attacks against us! Now, Sir, we have made them recognize that although the Indians are deficient, from their point of view, in managing self-governing institutions, they (Indians) have got every right to manage their own affairs and that it is proper that they should be invested with larger powers. While that is the view of the Britishers, which we have compelled them to take on account of the patriotic efforts of the people of this country, it seems to me most surprising that my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar, should now attempt to take away the power of managing local affairs from the hands of local bodies. It is one thing to appoint an executive officer in order to assist the non-official chairman in conducting the affairs of local bodies properly and it is quite another thing to take away the powers that they now enjoy.........''

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar: On a point of personal explanation, Mr. President. I have suggested for the consideration of the Select Committee the proposal to include assistant engineers also for the same reasons as have been given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons with reference to the appointment of district board engineers and municipal engineers. That is a matter for the consideration of the Select Committee. I thought it was my duty to mention this point so that it may not be ruled out at a later stage. For that to father on me all sorts of ideas in regard to non-official presidents and chairmen is, I think, not at all fair.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: I do not know if it was a point of order. (A voice: Personal explanation.) If it is a personal explanation, I am afraid the personal explanation itself requires further explanation. May I ask the Hon'ble Member for Bellary whether, by suggesting to this Council that the Select Committee may consider the question of assistant engineers being appointed by the Government, he wants the Select Committee to include the assistant engineers or exclude district board engineers? This kind of argument might pass muster with people who are not experienced in Parliamentary affairs, but to those who know how to put these

matters without making an avowal of one's own opinions, it seems to me that the explanation which the Hon'ble Member for Bellary gave in answer to my attack is a laboured explanation. Sir, to put it frankly, if the Government has any fear so far as the present constitution of local bodies is concerned, it would be quite enough to confine the operation of their Bill to recognized appointments such as the district board engineers and health offiers. It is quite one thing to include such higher grade officers within the purview of the Bill and it is quite another thing to include the lower grade officers also.

Sir, there is also another reason why the Government might have thought it necessary to include only the district board engineers and health officers. At present they are recruited from the Government service. They come from those who belong to the cadre. There is a sort of approval that is necessary from the Government in the case of these appointments. But now a formal approval is sought to be made a statutory obligation on the part of local bodies to consult the Government and to get them appointed by the Government. That is the scope of the present Bill. What my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar, suggests is that the appointments of assistant engineers and assistant health officers which have hitherto required only a formal approval from the Government should also be made by the Government themselves. I take very strong objection to this suggestion and I hope no Hon'ble Member of this Council would vote for the Bill being referred to the Select Committee on that understanding.

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai ; Sir, while I rise to support the motion that has been moved on the floor of this House I would like the Select Committee to consider the question of appointing Revenue Officers also for the various municipalities from Government service. Sir, I have got very many reasons for saying this. These officers have got to discharge very onerous duties, viz., fixing taxes and assessing the value of the various properties. These officers should be above all parties and be free from the clutches of people who are entangled in party politics. Therefore, I strongly urge upon the attention of the Select Committee to include the Revenue Officers also in the cadre of officers that are to be appointed by Government.

Mr. C. Basu Dev : Sir, in supporting the motion for referring this Bill to the Select Committee I wish to join my Hon'ble Friend,

Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliar, when he made the suggestion that the question of including assistant engineers should also be considered by the Select Committee. I missed the opportunity of speaking on the provisions of the Bill relating to the District Municipalities Act. I tabled a resolution but unfortunately on account of more urgent business my resolution could not be taken up. That resolution referred to the provincialization of the services in the employ of municipalities. I would now add that the services of the local board employees also may similarly be treated. I do not think there are any two opinions in this House or outside as to the necessity of having a very efficient service to administer to the needs of the people coming under the jurisdiction of the local boards and municipalities. Efficiency of administration requires a service which should not only be amenable to popular control but should also be administratively efficient. But unfortunately circumstanced as we are in this country, amenability to popular control is somewhat conflicting with administrative efficiency, and if choice is forced on me I would choose the latter and would sacrifice amenability to popular control. I do not think that the apprehension of my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, that the provincialization or the taking away of the power of appointment of servants to municipalities or local boards is a retrograde step, is correct, Servants will always be amenable to do the right thing. The whole trouble comes in when tho chairman wants the engineer or the revenue officer or some other servant to go outside the scope of his duties and do things which the law prohibits. In all matters which are lawful, which are necessary and which would be useful, there would be no difficulty for the municipal councils or the local boards to have this work executed by their officers. It is necessary that we should take steps to effect administrative efficiency in the service both in the local boards and municipalities. We can only do that by guaranteeing the men permanency of service which at present they are not enjoying. I think that provincialization of the services will be the surest and perhaps the only way of guaranteeing their permanency. With these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House.

Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiar : The convention regarding the composition of the Select Committee having been given the go by, the only way to ensure a place on the Select Committee is to make a

speech at this stage. I have, therefore, great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House.

Mr. C. Basu Dev : Sir, I protest against the insinuation.

The Hon'ble the President : He did not make any insinuation, He only wanted to make his position in the Select Committee more secure.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar : Sir, I am not able to agree with the motion that the Bill be sent to the Select Committee. Though I am as anxious as any other Hon'ble Member to keep up the efficiency of service, I want this House to recognize that there should be something of democracy. If the representatives of the people in a municipal council or a local board have to manage their own affairs, they should have control over their servants. I do certainly sympathise with my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, when he wanted to move his resolution that there should be provincialization of service in local boards and municipalities. I am for stabilization of services so far as local boards and municipalities are concerned. But that does not mean that the power of appointment and dismissal of these persons should be taken away from their hands. It is one thing to say that we want security of service and it is quite another thing to say that the power of apppointment and dismissal should be vested in the hands of a third party. If we are to progress on democratic lines, there is no point in taking away all the powers from the hands of the local bodies and entrusting them with the Government. You may as well have them as signing machines just to sign the decrees issued by the Government. If the local bodies should have control over their services, why should they not appoint them? In the City of Madras the Commissioner is appointed by the Government, but as regards certain other appointments power is either vested in the Council or the Commissioner. The lower grade appointments are made by the Commissioner and the appointments of higher grade are made by the City Council. Why should all the powers be taken away by the Government. This is only another opportunity to create a deadlock where there is no chance for it now. It may be that the Government may appoint a health officer or an engineer in a municipality and he may not be acceptable to the municipality. Why should the Government in that case force an officer on the local body against the will of the

local body? If necessary, let the local body concerned make the appointments and let the Government have the power of approving them. I think that the Bill as it stands is a retrograde measure judged by the principles of democracy.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Sir, I rise to support the views of my Hon'ble Friend, the ex-President of the Corporation of Madras, and the learned Member for the University. I request Hon'ble Members of the House to draw a distinction between centralization and efficiency. The idea with which local self-governing institutions were introduced in this country two or three decades ago was that power should be decentralized from the Provincial Government to the local bodies. We thought that the process was going on steadily and in a progressive manner. But recently the tendency seems to be more towards centralization than decentralization. If this should go on at the rate at which we are now proceeding for some time more, I do not know where we shall be and what functions will be left to the municipalities and local boards to discharge. It is wrong to think that efficiency always follows centralization or provincialization. It is possible by other means to ensure stability of tenure for the officers of the local bodies without provincializing services. The power of appointing the Commissioner of the Madras Corporation is vested in the Government. On account of that we had to pass through very difficult times some years when the Council could not agree with the Commissioner. Similar sad results are likely to follow in the case of the local bodies if the power of appointing the chief officers of the local bodies and municipalities is vested in the Government. I do not know why Mr. Basu Dev and other Hon'ble Members who think with him should be enamoured of centralization, especially as it is likely to result in deadlocks. Efficiency does not always follow from centralization. I admit there are spheres in which the Government can exercise their powers, but they need not interfere with the local bodies in all matters and reduce them to mere deliberating societies. At any rate that was not the idea with which local self-governing institutions were introduced in this country. Instead of becoming more and more autonomous and more and more powerful, the local bodies are sought to be made into mere puppets. Whatever else we may do to ensure stability of tenure for the officers serving under local bodies, we must not invest the Government with more and more powers. For instance, the rules were framed by the Madras Corporation with the previous

sanction of the Government to ensure stability of tenure for the officers of the Corporation and they get the same rights and privileges as Government servants get. The rules that apply to Government servants apply to the Corporation servants above a certain grade. In many cases they have the right of appeal, the right to be heard before punishment and such other privileges enjoyed by Government servants. I assert that that will be the right method of dealing with the officers serving under the local bodies. I know it will be said in reply that the Provincial Government itself is becoming autonomous and self-governing and there is no harm in investing it with these powers. But we have yet to know what form of Government we are going to get. When I read the original Bill I thought that the object of the Government was to regulate or rather legalize the power already vested in them to sanction the appointment of engineers and health officers in each municipality, but the intention of the previous speakers seems to be that the power of making the actual appointments should vest in the Government. They desire that for each municipality the Government shall appoint the revenue officer, the engineer and the health officer and so on. In such a case if there is a conflict between the municipality and the Government over the appointment of a particular officer, I do not know how it will be settled. Surely there will be unpleasantness and friction and the municipal services will deteriorate in efficiency. I would urge upon the Select Committee to go very carefully into the points raised on the floor of the House by Hon'ble Members who have spoken before me.

Mr. E. Conran Smith : Sir, I had not intended to intervene in the debate, especially as the proposal now is merely to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. But I should like to correct what I believe to be a misapprehension under which the Hon'ble Member for the University is labouring. This Bill merely seeks to legalize the practice which has been adopted since 1925. The Government are already appointing the district board engineers and health officers. It is only because in one case a legal doubt was thrown on the validity of the appointment that the Government have introduced this measure in order to legalize the existing practice. I may say that the practice has been accepted by the majority of the local bodies concerned and has worked well during the last eight years. The Hon'ble Member for the University remarked that he was all for stabilization although he was not in favour of provincialization. But he did not give any

alternative to provincialization as a guarantee to the services. I should like to tell the Hon'ble Member for the University that we have had, in the last few months at any rate, two cases in which engineers were ousted from their posts not because they were inefficient but because the chairmen of the councils concerned could not get on with them. As far as I can see, unless such posts are provincialized, there is no guarantee that others will not be treated similarly on future occasions. The Government are in a peculiarly difficult position in such cases, because, if they interfere to protect the municipal servants as they have a right to, then it means that the Government are forcing upon the council an officer who is not wanted either by the council or the chairman. The result is a deadlock. If they do not interfere, then they are not protecting the municipal servant, as they should do. In either case, the Government is in a very difficult position. I think, if the Hon'ble Member reflects on the matter, he will agree with me that the method now proposed is the right way of protecting these servants of the local bodies. The other points raised by Hon'ble Members will, of course, be dealt with by the Select Committee. I only wanted to take the opportunity to correct a misapprehension in the mind of the Hon'ble Member for the University.

The question that the Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, be referred to a Select Committee was put and carried.

RESERVED SEATS IN KISTNA DISTRICT

When the Council met again on 30th January, 1933, Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state why the reserved seats for Muslims and women in the Kistna district board were transferred from Kankipad circle to the Bezwada circle, and from the Mylavaram circle to the Kondapalle circle, respectively.

Answer: Government considered that the Kondapalle circle in which is situated Vidyanagar, a centre of women's education, was better suited to carry the seat for women and that the interests of the Muslims would be better served if the seat for them were reserved in the Bezwada circle, which contains the largest Muslim population.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: May I know whom the Government consulted before they changed the seats from one circle to the other?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I think representations were made to the Inspector of Local Boards.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Then it was found out that there was a consensus of opinion favouring the proposal?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I believe there were two sections of opinion, one favouring the transfer and the other against it.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: May I know which party had a larger number of supporters behind it—was it the party that was responsible for the change?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: I am afraid I cannot answer the question.

RECEIPTS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION FOR 1931-32

On the same day Mr. A. B. Shetty asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) the amount of provincial taxation on motor vehicles collected in each district in 1931-32; and (*b*) the amount of compensation for the abolition of toll-gates fixed for each district board in this province and the amount paid to each district board in 1931-32.

Answer: A statement is laid on the table. (*b*) The amount of compensation provisionally fixed for each district board is specified in the appendix to G.O. No. 1081, L. & M., dated 28th March, 1931, a copy of which was placed on the table in answer to question No. 282 at the meeting held on 30th October, 1931; 33/80ths of the provisional amount was paid to each district board in 1931-32. Revised amounts of compensation are being worked out in consultation with the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

The statement referred to by the Hon'ble Minister is appended below:

Statement showing the collections of tax on motor vehicles for 1931-32.

Number and name of district.	Collection in 1931-32.
1. Ganjam	37,243 0 0
2. Vizagapatam	98,485 0 0
3. East Godavari	64,962 0 0

Number and name of district.	Collection in 1931-32.		
4. West Godavari	33,922	8	0
5. Kistna	79,822	8	0
6. Guntur	53,095	0	0
7. Nellore	42,807	8	9
8. Cuddapah	23,070	0	0
9. Anantapur	34,652	8	0
10. Bellary	70,045	0	0
11. Kurnool	53,880	0	0
12. Chingleput	59,375	0	0
13. Chittoor	38,185	0	0
14. North Arcot	59,462	8	0
15. South Arcot	42,870	0	9
16. Tanjore	1,24,840	0	0
17. Trichinopoly	1,05,520	8	0
18. Madura	1,89,951	4	0
19. Ramnad	1,68,637	8	0
20. Tinnevelly	1,22,977	8	0
21. Coimbatore	2,68,565	0	0
22 The Nilgiris	1,81,435	0	0
23. Salem	1,32,512	8	0
24. South Kanara	1,19,467	8	0
25. Malabar	1,26,551	0	0
26. Madras City	6,59,920	0	0
27. At Madras City by book adjustment	4,092	8	0
Total ...	29,96,348	12	0

Mr. A. B. Shetty: Sir, in answer to clause (*b*), it is stated that 33/80ths of the provisional amount was paid to each district board in 1931-32. May I know how this fraction was worked out?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: It represents the proportion of the amount actually collected to the amount that the tax was expected to yield.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar: May I ask whether the Government have in contemplation any means by which the difference between the amount of compensation provisionally fixed and the amount actually paid to the district board could be made up?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: As is stated in the answer, the Government are considering fresh proposals.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar: May I ask whether any representations have been made to the Government or the Hon'ble the Chief Minister that the boards have been hard hit by reason of the disparity between the compensation fixed and the compensation actually paid?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: Representations have been made; but Government never gave any undertaking to give the full amount. They are now paying amounts in proportion to the actual collections made.

Mr. A. B. Shetty: May I know what amount of compensation is due to the boards for the year 1931-32 according to the amount provisionally fixed?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: All the information available is printed in the answer to the question. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: May I ask whether the Government have made a thorough investigation as to the causes why they have not been able to collect the full amount?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: The Committee that went into this matter said that they had collected all necessary information. That was the reason why no special investigation was made.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Have the Government taken steps to see that the full amount is collected?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: The short collection is due to the smaller number of motor vehicles actually running on the roads. It is not possible for the Government in any way to increase the revenue.

Mr. A. B. Shetty: The answer says that "revised amounts of compensation are being worked out." May I know what exactly it signifies—why the amounts are being revised?

The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili: We have to revise the amounts according to the actual collections made in every quarter, which may naturally vary.

RECEIPTS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION FOR 1932-33.

Mr. A. B. Shetty asked the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state (*a*) the amount of provincial motor taxation collected in each district in the first two quarters of 1932-33; and (*b*) the amount of toll compensation paid to each district board out of the above amount.

Answer: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table. (*b*) The following amounts have been ordered to be distributed to local bodies during current year:

	Rs.
Balance due on account of 1931-32	52,000
First instalment for 1932-33	5,20,000
Second instalment for 1932-33	5,20,000
Third instalment for 1932-33	5,20,000
Fourth instalment for 1932-33	11,11,000
Total ...	27,23,000

Information regarding the actual amount paid to each local body has been called for.

The statement referred to in (*a*) above is as follows:

Statement showing the collections of tax on motor vehicles in the first two quarters of 1932-33.

Serial number and name of district.	Total collections.		
1. Ganjam	26,242	8	0
2. Vizagapatam	80,711	4	0
3. East Godavari	54,840	0	0
4. West Godavari	25,767	8	0
5. Kistna	46,321	4	0
6. Guntur	49,792	8	0
7. Nellore	39,607	8	0
8. Cuddapah	18,100	0	0
9. Anantapur	20,882	8	0
10. Bellary	47,672	8	0
11. Kurnool	28,452	8	0

Serial number and name of district.	Total collections.		
12. Chingleput	33,232	8	0
13. Chittoor	29,775	0	0
14. North Arcot	71,062	8	0
15. South Arcot	37,190	0	0
16. Tanjore	96,917	8	0
17. Trichinopoly	75,065	0	0
18. Madura	1,41,967	8	0
19. Ramnad	1,06,780	0	0
20. Tinnevelly	74,878	12	0
21. Coimbatore	1,83,243	4	0
22. The Nilgiris	1,02,830	0	0
23. Salem	1,00,645	0	0
24. South Kanara	88,260	0	0
25. Malabar	1,32,821	12	0
26. Madras City	4,24,564	0	0
27. At Madras City by book adjustment	19,438	8	0
Total ...	21,58,061	8	0

LOCAL BOARDS AND THE JUDICIARY

LOCAL BOARDS AND THE JUDICIARY

[We publish below some of the important judicial decisions on cases of interest to local self-governing institutions that have been reported in the Madras Law Journal during the quarter commencing from 1st October, 1932.]

Burn, J. C.M.P. No. 4883 of 1932.

25th October, 1932.

Madras Local Boards Act (XIV of 1920), S. 38—Election Rules, R. 35—Candidate's nomination—Cancellation by Local Government—Writ of certiorari moved in High Court for including his name in the list of nominations—Whether the order of the Government could be quashed—Writ of mandamus proper.

The Local Government under S. 38 of the Local Boards Act and R. 35 of the Election Rules cancelled the nomination of a candidate for election to the District Board though the Election Officer had accepted it and writ of certiorari was moved in the High Court on behalf of the person whose nomination was rejected, for calling up of the records before the Election Officer and direct the Election Officer to include his name in the list of nominations. The Election Officer and the other candidate were made parties to the petition for writ.

Held, (1) that though writ was asked nominally against the Election Officer still in reality the Government's order it was that was sought to be quashed and this Court has no jurisdiction to question the order of the Local Government. 53 Mad. 979 followed.

(2) The prayer for direction to the Election Officer to include the petitioner's name was more appropriate in a writ for mandamus than in a writ of certiorari and this Court has jurisdiction to issue a writ of mandamus only to officers in the City and even in the City not against the Governor-in-Council.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

PRESENT: MR. JUSTICE WALLER AND MR. JUSTICE KRISHNAN PANDALAI

Pena Rina Yena Manickavasagam Chettiar. *Petitioners in both (Plff.)*

versus

The Union Board of Devakottah, through its President, O. R. M. M. S. M. Manickavasagam Chettiar *alias* Sevugan Chettiar ... ... *Respondent in both (Deft.)*

Madras Local Boards Act (XIV of 1920), S. 93 (prior to Amendment of 1930)—Scope of—Double taxation—How far allowed.

As regards double taxation, S. 93 of the Local Boards Act (as it stood before the Amending Act XI of 1930) only provides that an income derived from a source otherwise taxable within the area must not be taxed twice. But if the lands and houses be outside the area, the income therefrom, if received within the local limits of the Board, is taxable whether it has been taxed elsewhere or not.

Petitions under S. 115 of Act V of 1908 praying the High Court to revise the decrees of the Court of the Temporary Subordinate Judge of Devakottah in A.S. Nos. 15 and 22 of 1927 (Appeals Nos. 281 and 286 of 1927 on the file of the District Court of Ramnad) preferred against the decrees of the Court of the District Munsif of Devakottah in O. S. No. 48 of 1926 in O. S. No. 559 of 1924.

The judgment of the Court was delivered by

Waller, J.—In this case two second appeals were originally filed. It is obvious that the matter involved was of a small cause nature and therefore, the appeals do not lie. Two applications were filed to convert the appeals into civil revision petitions which were allowed.

The question involved is as to the collection of profession tax from the petitiener by the respondent, the Union Board of Devakottah. The petitioner lives within the area of the Union Board, but carries money-lending business at Madras, Mannargudi and Nellore. His contention is that, as he has already paid the profession-tax on the income from his business in those places, he is not liable to pay again on it at his

place of residence. He pleads, in fact, that income cannot be received as income twice over. That is a contention we have rejected in our judgment in *Periannan Chetti* versus *Taluk Board, Devakottah.* We reject it again for the reasons given in our judgment in that case. His next contention is that it is contrary to the policy of the Local Boards Act to tax a man twice over on his income from the same business. That contention we cannot accept. The relevant section of the Act of 1920 is S. 92. The petitioner is a person "who, within such area......is in receipt of an income from money-lending or any source other than houses and lands inside the local limits of the area." As regards double taxation all that the Act indicates is that an income derived from a source otherwise taxable within the area must not be taxed there twice. If the assessee derives an income from houses and lands within that area, that is otherwise taxable within the area and must not be taxed again. But let his lands and houses be outside the area and it is obvious that his income from them, if it reaches Devakottah, will be taxable there under S. 92 whether it has been taxed elsewhere or not. The only cases in which double taxation is not allowed are specified in sub-section (3) and the petitioner's is not one of those cases. Under the present Act—the Act of 1930—the exceptions are much wider and the petitioner would not be taxable at all at Devakottah. In the result, we must dismiss the civil revision petitions with costs, on the finding that the petitioner is taxable. No question as to the amount of the tax was argued before us.

Petitions dismissed.

Pakenham Walsh, J. S. A. No. 1008 of 1928.

15th November, 1932.

Ordinance IX of 1914—Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, Ss. 44 and 45—Void contract by Municipality—Benefit if can be restored—S. 65, Contract Act—Limitation—Acknowledgment by agent—Validity.

Held, that when the statutory requirements for entering into a contract are not complied with, the contract by the Municipality is void.

53 Mad. 352 followed.

In such a case of void contract for breach of statute, S. 65, Contract Act does not apply and the benefit derived cannot be refunded.

50 Cal. 929 and 45 All. 179 explained.

1930 Mad. 945 ; 57 M.L.J. 756 and 54 Cal. 189 distinguished.

The Ordinance does not take away the power of the Municipality to contract under the Act.

An agent who is authorised to enter into a contract is also empowered to acknowledge the liability so as to save limitation.

24 C.W.N. 153 ; 85 I.C. 633 and 2 Ran. 367 followed.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

PRESENT: MR. JUSTICE BARDSWELL

M. Shanmuga Mudaliar ... ... *Petitioner (Respondent)*

versus

S. Subbaraya Mudaliar and another

Respondents (Petitioner and another)

Certiorari—Order of Election Commissioner—Erroneous view of law—Writ whether can be issued—Commissioner entertaining point not taken in petition—Legality—Madras District Municipalities Act (V of 1920), S. 49—Rules for the Conduct of Inquiries and Decision of Disputes relating to Elections, R. 11 (2)—Exercise of discretion by Commissioner—Interference.

When a Court, or similar authority, gives to itself a jurisdiction which it properly has not got, by taking an erroneous view of the law, a writ of *certiorari* will be issued, but there will be no writ if it makes a mistake in the law when acting in the exercise of a jurisdiction which it undoubtedly possesses. Thus an erroneous decision on the question whether a candidate is disqualified for election by reason of S. 49 of the Madras District Municipalities Act is no ground for ordering a writ if the Lower Court had otherwise acted within the limits of its jurisdiction. Where, however, the Election Commissioner declares an election to be void on a ground not taken in the election petition his action is one in excess of jurisdiction and writ may be issued.

Govindaswami Pillai versus *Ramalingaswami Pillai*, (1931) 62 M.L.J. 644, *Ramaswami Goundan* versus *Muthuvelappa Gounder*, (1922)

I.L.R. 46 Mad. 536 : 44 M.L.J. 1 and *R.S. Naidu* versus *J. Ramier* (1926) 51 M.L.J. 701, relied on.

Where the Election Commissioner holds an election to be void and declares the person who got the highest number of votes to be duly elected, his order is valid, even though the effect of the order may be to disenfranchise a large number of voters, who had voted in ignorance of the disqualification of the candidate whose election has been set aside. Propriety of ordering fresh election in such cases pointed out.

Petition praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed with C.M.P. No. 4335 of 1932 the High Court will be pleased in the exercise of its inherent powers under the Letters Patent and S.106 of the Government of India Act to issue a writ of *certiorari* calling upon the second respondent herein to submit the records relating to O.P.No. 34 of 1931 on his file and make the writ *nisi* absolute and quash the order and proceedings in the said O.P.No. 34 of 1931.

The Court made the following

ORDER : In each of these petitions the issue of a writ of *certiorari* is prayed for in order to quash an order of the Election Commissioner of Vellore, dated 19th August, 1932, in O.Ps. 34 and 35 of 1931. The Election Commissioner is in his ordinary official capacity the Subordinate Judge of Vellore, As Election Commissioner he is *persona designata*. For the purpose of this order the petitioner and respondent No. 1 in C.M.P. No. 4040 will be styled respectively the first petitioner and the first respondent. The petitioner and the first respondent in the other petition will be styled respectively the second petitioner and the second respondent. The second respondent in both the petitions is the Election Commissioner, who is only a party *pro-forma*.

On 8th October, 1931, an election was held for Ward No, 14 of the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council. The result declared next day was as follows: First petitioner 215 votes; second petitioner 160 votes; second respondent 64 votes; first respondent 8 votes.

There were two other candidates who got 4 and 5 votes respectively. With these we are not concerned. The two respondents filed respectively O.Ps. Nos. 34 and 35 of 1931 before the Election Commissioner, In O.P.No. 34 it was prayed that the election of the two

petitioners might be declared void and that the first respondent might be declared duly elected. In O.P.No. 35, the second respondent asked for a similar relief for himself on similar grounds. The Election Commissioner has passed one judgment on both the petitions before him and has declared the election of both the petitioners void and at the same time declared the two respondents to be duly elected. The second respondent like the second petitioner is a woman, and her election is for a reserved seat.

The order of the Election Commissioner is based upon his interpretation of S. 49 (2) (*f*) of the Madras District Municipalities Act by which a person shall be disqualified for election as a Councillor if such a person is, at the date of nomination or election, a servant or employer or an official subordinate or official superior of a Councillor holding office on the said date. Now it has been established by a Full Bench decision of this Court in *Selvaranga Raju* versus *Doraiswami Mudaliar* that a disqualification under S. 49 can be made a ground for petition before an Election Court impugning an election and so the Election Commissioner certainly had the jurisdiction to enquire into the objections of the present respondents to the election of the petitioners with regard to that section. It has also been held by a Divisional Bench of this Court in *Govindaswami Pillai* versus *Ramalingaswami Pillai* that an election officer is empowered by the rules to reject a nomination because a candidate is disqualified under S. 49 and that this involves a power and duty of deciding whether, in fact, the candidate is so disqualified; and the same case points out that the decision of a tribunal does not become without jurisdiction because it is wrong. In the present instance it has been urged that the Election Officer's interpretation of S. 49 is incorrect and it is sought, with reference to many English authorities, to show that this incorrect interpretation amounts to an error of jurisdiction. None of the decisions, however, that have been quoted to me justifies my acceptance of this argument. In the face of the decision of this Court, already quoted, in *Govindaswami Pillai* versus *Ramalingaswami Pillai*, it is unnecessary for me to go into an elaborate discussion of all these decisions. I shall merely mention them with a minimum comment. They are: *Overseers of the Poor of Walsall* versus *London and North Western Railway Co.*, *King* versus *Electricity Commissioners*, *Rex* versus *Board of Education*, *Rex* versus *Nat Bell Liquors, Ltd.*, *The Colonial Bank of Australia* versus *Willan*, *Rex* versus *Lincolnshire Justices*, and *Rex* versus

The London County Council. Not one of these decisions is an authority for the position that an erroneous decision on a point of law, by Lower Court acting within the limits of its jurisdiction, can be a ground for issuing a writ of *certiorari.* The decision in *The Colonial Bank of Australia* versus *Willan* is very clear as to this when it says that a Court will not quash, except on a ground either of manifest defect of jurisdiction in the tribunal which made it or of manifest fraud in the party procuring it; and again, in *Rex* versus *Lincolnshire Justices* it has been ruled that if the Lincolnshire Justices were bound to come to some conclusion, right or wrong, then they had jurisdiction and a writ could not be issued because of the wrong conclusion. The matter has been summed up in *Halsbury's Laws of England,* Vol. 10, paragraphs 379 and 381. Paragraph 379 shows that where in the face of the proceedings themselves it appears that the determination of an inferior court is wrong in law, *certiorari* will be granted; but this has to be read with what follows in paragraph 381 that, where proceedings are regular on their face, and a court has had jurisdiction, the superior Court will not grant writ of *certiorari* on the ground that the Court below has misconceived the point of law. Indeed, the paragraph 379 is not intended to show that a writ can be granted because of an erroneous conclusion on a point of law arrived at in the proper exercise of the Court's jurisdiction, is known by what that section goes on to say as to in what kind of circumstances such a writ can be granted. It comes to this that when a Court, or similar authority, gives to itself a jurisdiction which it properly has not got by taking an erroneous view of the law, a writ will be issued, but there will be no writ if it makes a mistake in the law when acting in the exercise of a jurisdiction which it undoubtedly possesses. It is true that in *Gould* versus *Gapper* a writ of prohibition was granted even when the error did not appear on the face of the proceedings but had to be collected from the whole of it; but even in this case the error was one of jurisdiction, it being one arising from the clash of procedure between the Ecclesiastical Courts and the ordinary Courts of Common Law. It is unnecessary for me to discuss the matter further when the matter has already been decided by a Divisional Bench of this Court, whose decision I am bound to follow. However much, then, I may think that the interpretation by the Election Commissioner of S. 42 is incorrect, I cannot, in that he arrived at the interpretation in the exercise of a jurisdiction which he possessed, grant a writ of *certiorari* because of the decision being erroneous.

There is one more decision of this Court to which I may refer, *Ramaswami Goundan* versus *Muthuvelappa Gounder*. In this case the point of a wrong interpretation of the law having been given by a Judge in the exercise of his jurisdiction was considered, on an application for revision under S. 115, Civil Procedure Code and Ss. 506 and 107 of the Government of India Act. But in that case there was not merely this wrong interpretation of the law, but it further led to acts which amounted to an excess of jurisdiction, one of these being the declaration of a party as having been elected as President when, as for as the record went, it appeared that that was a relief which had not been prayed for, and another being that a person was removed from the post of President on a ground that had not been taken in the petition on which the order as to that was passed. The ultimate order passed in that case, I may note, was that the petition under review was remanded for disposal on its merits according to law.

The learned Advocate-General has referred to a finding in *Rex* versus *Board of Education* that the Board of Education had, by answering a question not referred to it and avoiding any answer to the real question declined jurisdiction. He contends that in this case the Election Commissioner has not addressed himself to the only point that he was qualified to deal with, viz., whether the present petitioners were holding office at the time of their nomination. From the order under review, however, I cannot find that this position taken by the learned Advocate-General is justified. In the course of the order I find the following passages: (1) "the words 'holding office on the said date' mean holding office on the date of nomination or election by virtue of which the relationship of being official subordinate or official superior came into existence"; (2) "The persons in question became councillors and both held office of trustee and *dasi* respectively on the dates of nomination and election." (3) "I, therefore, hold that the only reasonable meaning of S.49 (2)(*f*) is that official superiors or official subordinates holding such office on the date of nomination or election are disualified from sitting as councillors." (4) "As I have observed *supra* Vrithambal Ammal (*i.e.* second respondent), is the official subordinate of the Councillor Shanmuga Mudaliar. She was such a subordinate on the date of nomination and election." It is impossible to find in the light of these remarks that the Election Commissioner has failed to address himself to the point which he had to consider in coming to a conclusion upon the objections taken with reference to S. 49. It

has also been argued with a reference to *Rex* versus *Wandsworth Licensing Justices* that there is a case for a writ here, in that the Election Commissioner has been influenced by extraneous considerations. The reference is to his view that the words " holding office " need not mean holding office as Municipal Councillor but may refer to the office in respect of which one person is superior or subordinate to another. But, though his view as to this may be wrong, it is not one that is based on considerations that were foreign to the case with which he had to deal. Rather it is based on considerations that were very germane thereto. I should note that it is not admitted that the petitioners stand to each other in the relation of superior and subordinate, but the Election Commissioner has found on the evidence that they bear such a relation to each other and there has been no argument before me as to that finding.

As far, then, as the objection is taken that the Election Commissioner has taken a wrong view of S. 49, these petitions must fail.

There is, however, another point taken, which concerns only the case of the first petitioner. This is that the Election Commissioner has declared his election to be void on a ground not taken in the petition against him. If such is the case, then the action of the Election Officer in setting aside his election and declaring the first respondent elected in his place will be one in excess of jurisdiction as appears not only from *Ramaswami Goundan* versus *Muthuvelappa Gounder*, to which I have already referred, but also from *R.S. Naidu* versus *J. Ramier*, a more recent decision by Jackson, J., sitting alone. As far as the issue as to this matter goes the contention thus put forward for the first petitioner appears to be correct. This issue as framed in O.P. No. 34 is as follows: " Is the nomination of the second respondent as a candidate invalid for the reasons stated in paragraph 4 (*e*) of the petition and is this Court entitled to go into that question? " and there is the same issue in O.P. No. 35 except that there respondent 2 becomes respondent 1, this person being the same as the present second petitioner, Vrithambal Ammal and that cl. (4) (*e*) becomes cl. (4) (*c*). For the respondents it is contended that by some inadvertence this fourth issue has not been made applicable to the first petitioner also, but a reference to the pleadings shows that this contention is not well founded. The election of the two petitioners was sought to be set aside on a number of grounds, and a number of issues, apart from issue 4, were framed as to them. Some of them applied only to the first

petitioner and some of them applied both to him and the second petitioner, but none of them was pressed at the enquiry and the matter was argued only with reference to issue 4 which I have already quoted. Issue 4 is based on cl. (*e*) in the one case and cl. (*c*) in the other of paragraph 4 in the petitions, to the Election Officer. That clause as it appears in O.P. No. 34 runs as follows:

> "From the outset the election proceedings have been conducted and held contrary to the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder, in so far as the second respondent, who is a *dasi* of Arunachaleswarar Temple, is the servant and subordinate of the first respondent who, as stated above, is the executive trustee having full control over the second respondent, and, therefore, disqualified to stand as a candidate along with the first respondent. Consequently the second respondent's nomination paper which has been improperly received should have been rejected by the sixth respondent who is, therefore, impleaded as a party."

Cl. (4) (*c*) in O.P. No. 35 is to a like effect, *mutatis mutandis* clearly the objection taken in this clause is only as to the position of the present second petitioner and to her nomination paper which, on the grounds stated is said to have been improperly received. It is true that there is a reference to the first petitioner, but this reference is only to show that the second petitioner is disqualified to stand as a candidate along with him in that he is an executive trustee having full control over her. The point taken is that she is disqualified because, of him and not at all that he himself was disqualified to stand or should not have been nominated. This, then, is a case in which the Commissioner has not confined himself to an enquiry into the points raised in the petition. I may note that the Election Commissioner himself realised that under this issue he was dealing only with the case against the second petitioner, as his conclusion is thus expressed: "I, therefore, find that the lady councillor should cease to be councillor under S. 50 (1) (*f*) also." From what has gone before, it is clear that what he meant by this was that he was deciding the matter with reference to S. 50 (1) (*f*) as well as to S. 49 (2) (*f*). A point has been taken that he should not have brought S. 50 (1) (*f*) into consideration, but I need not deal with this point, as it is sufficient that he had jurisdiction to deal with the matter under S. 49 (2) (*f*) and has disposed of it thereunder. That is the section with reference to which O.Ps. Nos. 34 and 35 of 1931

were brought. As to the matter of inadvertence I would observe that if there has been any, it has been in only pressing the one issue though, for aught I know, that may have been due to quite other causes. The actual reason for pressing only the one issue has not been shown to me. In any case the first petitioner must have the benefit of the fact that the one issue that was pressed was one that did not tell against him.

As I find that the Election Commissioner has acted in excess of his jurisdiction in declaring the election of the first petitioner, i.e., the petitioner in C.M.P. No. 4040, void and in declaring that the first respondent of that petition had been elected, was passed without jurisdiction, I quash his order as to that, so that the election of the petitioner in C.M.P. No. 4040 will stand. That petition is, therefore, allowed with costs.

In the case of the second petitioner, i.e., the petitioner in C.M.P. No. 4335 of 1932, the result of the Election Commissioner's order is that a party who received 64 votes has been declared duly elected, thereby disfranchising the 160 voters who have voted for the second petitioner in ignorance, it would appear, of his disqualification. Under R. 11 (2) the Election Commissioner had the option, if he declared the election of the second petitioner void, either to declare that any other party to the petition who has under the rules claimed the seat has been elected, or to order a fresh election, and there is nothing in the rule to suggest that he is in any way restricted in the exercise of the option. It might have been better in such a case as this to order a fresh election but, if the Election Officer could in his discretion declare that the second respondent was duly elected, then he was passing an order which he had jurisdiction to pass and the order cannot be interfered with by means of a writ. A reference has been made in this connection to *Gopala Aiyangar* versus *Ebrahim Rowthar*. In that case, the District Judge, in setting aside the election of a party as Municipal Councillor because of a disqualification, ordered a fresh election. Another party, who had applied for being himself declared duly elected, came up on revision, contending that he was entitled to be so declared. The Full Bench dismissed the revision petition holding that a candidate who gets the next highest number of votes to the successful candidate who is disqualified is not entitled, as a matter of course, to be declared elected under the then Rule 12 which is identical in its terms with the present Rule 11. What was decided was

that a candidate in such a position was not entitled, in such a case, to be declared elected and not that it was not permissible for the District Judge to pass either of the two orders which the rule allowed. I must find then that the Election Commissioner in declaring the second respondent elected passed an order which was within his jurisdiction and that I cannot, therefore, interfere with it.

The result, then, is that C.M.P. No. 4335 of 1932 has to be and is dismissed with costs.

Pleader's fee Rs, 200 in each petition.

C.M.P. No. 4040 of 1932 allowed.

C.M.P. No. 4335 of 1932 dismissed.

MISCELLANEOUS

LOCAL BOARDS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY

STATE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

[By Mr. M. Venkatarangaiya, M.A.] *

The self-governing character of local boards depends, not only on the methods adopted to select the persons serving on them, but also on the nature and degree of autonomy they possess. It is, of course, true that autonomy is not complete in the case of local institutions in any country in the world. They are not like the units in a federation with an independent sphere of action freed from the control of Central Government. Everywhere they are subordinate to State authorities. But in respect of the degree of control exercised over them by the State, in the agencies through which it is exercised and in the methods adopted for the purpose, systems of local government differ from one another. It is from these points of view that the subject will be studied here.

One striking feature in the history of the State control over local boards has to be noted at the outset, as it brings out the contrast between the course of evolution in a country like modern England and in the Madras Presidency. At the beginning of the nineteenth century local institutions enjoyed complete autonomy in England, and later legislation and practice resulted in the gradual diminution of this autonomy and the increase of State control over them [1]. In the Madras Presidency the course of change has been on quite different lines. When local boards were first instituted they were entirely dependent on provincial Government, and subsequent legislation was an attempt at the relaxation of State control and the transformation of the boards into quasi-autonomous bodies. This change was in accordance with the general course of constitutional development in modern India, consisting as it does in a highly over-centralised Government becoming a partially decentralised one.

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* Reader, Andhra University. Vizagapatam.

1 *Principles of Local Government Law* by Ivor Jennings. P. 54-55; and chapter V.

From 1871 to 1920 local boards may be said to have had no sphere in which they enjoyed autonomy in the sense of freedom to arrive at and carry out decisions having a finality about them. They were mainly in the position of consultative bodies set up by the provincial Government to help it in administering local affairs. In essence their relation to the provincial Government was similar to that of the District Collector. The latter was a subordinate officer of the Government appointed by it to carry out in a particular area its policy and its rules and regulations. The local boards were practically in the same position. In respect of certain local affairs the Government consulted the boards and its work carried out through them instead of through the Collector. They were dependent on the provincial Government for much of what they did.

LOCAL FUND ACT OF 1871

This was prominently the characteristic of the circle boards established under the Act of 1871. The State controlled them in every respect, partly through legislation and to a greater extent through the rules and administrative orders of the provincial executive—the Governor-in-Council. The purpose for which the boards were brought to existence and the subjects on which they could spend their funds were rigidly defined by the Act. The Governor-in-Council fixed [1] the territorial limits within which a circle board could exercise its jurisdiction, and he had the power to modify those limits without consulting the board. He appointed the members of the board and could remove them from office at any time [2]. He also nominated the vice-president, [3] while the District Collector was its ex-officio president. The *personnel* of the board was thus entirely under his control. He determined the number, the salaries and the qualifications of the staff to be appointed under each board. [4] Owing to the inadequacy of the finances, the staff so sanctioned was generally small, and the more responsible work of the board was carried on by Government officers in the engineering, educational and medical departments over whom the board could not exercise any control. In the field of finance the powers wielded

1 Section 3;

2 Section 4;

3 Section 6;

4 Section 24;

by the Governor-in-Council were extraordinary. Though the Act strictly defined the taxes and rates from which the board should get its revenues, it was not the board but the Govornor that had the right to select and levy the taxes and rates authorised by the Act.[1] It was the Collector of the district—as Collector and not as the president of the board—that assessed the annual rental value of land for purposes of land cess, [2] and appeals from his decisions went before the Board of Revenue[3] and not the local board. The rate at which the house-tax should be levied was determined by the Collector,[4] and he alone was competent to grant remissions,[5] The circle board had, therefore, no control over its revenues. As regards expenditure, it had the power to prepare an annual estimate of what it proposed to spend on each of the purposes defined under the Act, but this estimate had to receive the sanction of rhe Governor-in- Council who could modify it in any way he liked.[6] The estimate had to be prepared strictly according to the rules laid down by the provincial Government and scrutinised by the district officers in charge of several departments like education, engineering and medicine. The Governor could direct one local board to contribute towards the expenses of another.[7] It was he that appointed local committees to advise the boards in the management of schools, dispensaries, etc., maintained by the latter.[8] He also appointed inspectors for inspecting or supervising the operations of the boards,[9] and officers to audit their accounts.[10] The boards had to annually submit to him a report of their proceedings.[11] Thus in every sphere of their work the boards were controlled by Government.

The matters on which final discretion was allowed to them were few and unimportant. They could accept gifts not involving any expenditure in maintaining them. They could appoint the time and place of their meeting[12] and their president—the Collector—could appoint the necessary ministerial staff in accordance with the schedule sanctioned by the Governor.[13]

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1 Section 36.
2 Section 44.
3 Section 45.
4 Section 52.
5 Section 57.
6 Section 30-31.
7 Section 27.
8 Section 33.
9 Section 28.
10 Section 32.
11 Section 32.
12 Section 18.
13 Section 24.

The dependence of the boards on provincial Government went to such extremes that even the Madras Local Self-Government Committee of 1888, known for its reactionary views, was constrained to state thus: "There exists a body of minute rules, 176 in number, compiled by the Board of Revenue and prescribed by Government under the Local Fund Act in 1879. The powers left to the local fund boards by these rules and by the orders and practice of Government and the Board of Revenue, to whom the immediate superintendence of the local fund administration has been delegated, are comparatively small, and there is no doubt that the application of these rules, and the restraint imposed by the audit of the Accountant-General, are fruitful sources of irritation and complaint or the part of the local boards."[1]

From the above summary it is clear that between 1871 and 1884 the State exercised minute control over the local boards, that all possible agencies—the legislature, the Governor-in-Council, the Board of Revenue, the District Collector, the other district officers, the Accountant-General, and the official members of the boards—were employed for this purpose, and that all conceivable methods—determining the *personnel* of the the boards, regulating their proceedings, insisting on Government approval for all their actions, audit, inspection, calling for reports, and reviewing their work, etc.—were adopted to make the control comprehensive and effective. Under these circumstances, the boards had no opportunity of developing a sense of responsibility and were, therefore, not in a position to train the people of the country in the art of self-government.[2]

THE RESOLUTION OF LORD RIPON'S GOVERNMENT

As has been pointed out in another article, the subject of Local Self-Government deeply interested Lord Ripon, the Viceroy from 1880 to 1884. In a resolution dated September 30, 1881, he invited the attention of the provincial Governments to the urgent need for developing more Local Self-Government. In a subsequent letter[3] to the Government of Madras, he laid special emphasis on the question of control, and stated that "it would be hopeless to expect

1 House of Commons Return. East India (Local Government) 15th March. 1883, P. 136; Page 27.

2 House of Commons Return. Op. Cit. P. 27, Para 3.

3 Financial No. 3515, dated October 10, 1881, Para 9.

any real development of self-government if local bodies were subject to check and interference in matters of detail; and the respective powers of Government and of the various local bodies should be clearly and distinctly defined by statute, so that there may be as little risk of friction and misunderstanding as possible. Within the limits to be laid down in each case, however, the Governor-General-in-Council is anxious that the fullest possible liberty of action should be given to local bodies." He also indicated that, subject to general restrictions imposed by the legislature, local bodies should be competent to create as well as to abolish, without reference to higher authority, all appointments, the pay of which was chargeable to local funds.[1]

These views were further amplified in the famous resolution of of 18th May, 1882. Three cardinal principles were laid down in it,[2] on the degree of control to be retained by the Government over the local boards and the manner in which it should be exercised. The first principle was that all control should be exercised from without rather than from within. This meant that the Collector who was the chief Government officer in the district should not be the ex-officio president of the local board, and that there should not be a preponderating official element among the members of the board. This would secure a greater freedom of debate for the elected and non-official members, and they would be in a position to express their opinions honestly and fearlessly. In those days the District Collector enjoyed a power and prestige which made the public regard him as a *nabob* in miniature, and very few had the courage to oppose him in his presence. It was, therefore, clear that boards could not feel themselves free so long as he presided over them. From an administrative point of view also, it was more convenient if the Collector supervised and checked the acts of local bodies without taking actual part in their proceedings and dictating to them what they should or should not do. The second principle was that the sanction of Government should be required to give validity to certain acts, such as the raising of loans, the imposition of taxes in other than duly authorised forms, the alienation of property, interference with any matters involving religious questions or affecting the public

1. Secretary of State's letter Financial No. 48, dated February 9, 1882, Para 2.

2. Para 17.

peace and the like. It is a reasonable inference from this that Lord Ripon was averse to the Government selecting and levying the taxes and rates permitted by statute which was the practice that obtained in this Presidency under the Act of 1871, and that he was disposed to give complete freedom to local boards to levy all duly authorised taxes without any further sanction of the executive authorities. The third principle was that the provincial Government should have power to interfere either to set aside altogether the proceedings of the board in particular cases, or, in the event of gross and continued neglect of any important duty, to suspend the board temporarily, the power of absolute supersession requiring in every case the consent of the supreme Government. The ultimate power to suspend or supersede a local body is reserved by central Governments in almost all countries in the world, and it is a necessary and wholesome power. But the same cannot be said of the power to set aside the proceedings of the boards in particular cases so long as they are within the limits of the law. A general power of veto would remove opportunities for the growth of a sense of responsibility among the boards and keep them in the leading strings of the Government. The liberalism of Lord Ripon had its own limits, and there was not in those days an intelligent and effective public opinion in the country to criticise the views of the Government.

The resolution of the Government of India was only advisory, and it was left to provincial Governments to take action upon it. The Madras Government referred the earlier resolution of Lord Ripon to the Board of Revenue, and the latter expressed the view that it would not be in the interests of local tax-payers to emancipate the boards wholly from official control. The board also stated that the local bodies were still in their infancy, and that a certain amount of restraint was necessary to prevent them from becoming involved in difficulties to extricate them from which the aid of the State would have to be invoked. "Little by little, as the masses begin to apprehend the aim and object of the institutions, the people outside the narrow circle of the members of the board will make their voice heard and urge their requirements, and when the local boards begin to feel the pressure of public opinion official control may perhaps be gradually relaxed, though the time must still be distant."[1] To Lord Ripon the relaxation of control was an immediate necessity,

1. House of Commons Return, Part II, Para 4, Page 122.

while to the Board of Revenue it was only a distant goal to be kept in view.

The whole question was considered by the Madras Local Self-Government Committee. It emphasized the need for the continuance of control from within, and its necessary consequence of the Collector continuing to be the president and another official the vice-president of the local board. The utmost that it could do to show its sympathy with the views of Lord Ripon was to recommend that the provincial Government might be empowered to try the experiment of control from without in such towns or districts as it might think suitable. As regards the agencies of control, it was of the view that the intercession of the Board of Revenue might be dispensed with.[1] The Governor-in Council agreed with the committee, and legislation on those lines was undertaken in 1883, resulting in the enactment of the Local Boards Act of 1884.

LOCAL BOARDS ACT OF 1884

From the point of view of State control the Act of 1884 deserves a careful study. As suggested by Lord Ripon, it defined more precisely and in detail the powers and duties of the boards, so that they were in a position to know exactly what they were expected to do. Another feature of the Act was the larger place that it gave to administrative law-making under which the Governor-in Council was empowered to regulate the work of the boards by means of rules and executive orders.[2] Control through the mechanism of administrative authority became more important than through statutory legislation. This was not, however, a novel practice. It was taken recourse to even under the Act of 1871. But under the new act it covered a more extensive ground. Even matters of a vital character like the qualifications of voters and of candidates and the system of representation and election were to be settled by executive rule-making. Besides this, the Governor-in-Council was authorised to make rules on all subjects connected with the carrying out of the Act and specially on the transfer of property from district boards to taluk boards; the respective duties and responsibilities and mutual relations of district boards, taluk boards and panchayats; the distribution of funds among the several purposes authorised by the Act; the formation of committees and the delegation of powers

1. House of Commons Return, op. cit. Part I, Page 140-141
2. Report of the Select Committee on the Local Boards Bill of 1883.

to them; the entering into contracts; the qualifications of the servants of the boards and the pensions and gratuities payable to them; the preparation and sanction of their plans and estimates for works undertaken by the boards; the framing of the budgets; the forms in which the accounts were to be kept; and the manner in which they were to be audited.[1] These were only a few of the matters on which rules could be made. The administrative authorities were not slow in making use of this provision. Within less than fifteen years after the passing of the Act a voluminous Code containing seven hundred and fifty main "articles" with numerous subsidiary "notes" was compiled, bringing together all the rules framed up till then by the Governor-in Council.[1]

The exercise of legislative power by the executive, and the utilisation of it as an effective mechanism of State control over local bodies, has now become a characteristic feature of the process of Government in almost all countries. Considerable significance is attached to it by those who condemn it as an example of the growing bureaucratic tyranny as well as by those who welcome it on the ground of its flexibility. It is not here necessary to enter into this controversy, but it may be noted that in the Madras Presidency of 1884 and of the period immediately following it the distinction between "Statutes" and "Executive Laws" had not the same importance as it had in other civilised States like England or France. The Madras legislature which enacted the statutes was a body dominated by the executive. The majority of its members were officials voting in accordance with the views of the Government; it was presided over by the Governor; the few non-officials who sat on it were not the elected representatives of the people; they were also subject to official influences. Under these circumstances, every measure of legislation expressed the will of the executive government of the day. And it was the same Government that was entrusted with the power of rule-making. In spirit and in substance there was not much difference between "Statutes" and "Executive Laws." The distinction was only technical and formal. It was mainly on account of this that the central control of local bodies was resented by non-official public opinion.

This method of leaving many matters for regulation by administrative rules served two purposes in the main. It gave opportunity

1 Local Fund Code 1898 Preface.

to Government to introduce changes and modifications into the working of local boards with greater ease. The enactment of statutes was a complicated process; and it also involved considerable delay as the sessions of the legislature were held only at long intervals. To give expression to its will through an administrative rule was, therefore, simpler than convoking the aid of the legislature for the purpose. The only conditions to be fulfilled in the making of rules was that the Governor-in-Council had to publish a draft of the proposed rules for giving information to persons interested, and consider before finally passing them any objections or suggestions put forward before a specified date. [1] Rule-making also served a more important purpose, and it was mostly in view of this that Government showed a preference for it. It was found to be an effective method by the executive for escaping from an otherwise inconvenient position and of bringing about a compromise between rival points of view on a proposed measure of legislation, The executive prevailed on the legislature to provide for alternative solutions to the question at issue to satisfy the conservative as well as the liberal opinion, reserving to itself the power by means of rule-making to put into effect the one or the other alternative as circumstances dictated. One of the cardinal principles, for instance, of Lord Ripon's resolution was that local bodies should be controlled from without rather than from within. The Madras Government was not very much in favour of it. But to reject it completely was impolitic. The solution proposed was that the Act should provide for control from within and also for control from without, the Governor-in-Council being left to decide with reference to each local board how it should be controlled.

In fact, the wide discretion left to the executive in this as well as in other matters affecting control should be regarded an important feature of the Act.

In a few directions the Act gave freedom to the local boards which they did not possess under the Act of 1871. Much of it was only freedom of initiative and not of final action. But still it was a move on the right path. The boards were authorised to frame their own rules of business, [2] to make proposals for fixing the number and salaries of their establishments, [3] to determine and select the taxes

1 Section 145.

2 Section 34.

3 Section 41.

and rates to be levied, [1] and to take action in several matters affecting public health and sanitation. [2] The president of the district board was allowed to delegate his powers to the vice-president. [3] The chairman of the panchayat obtained the power to assess the house-tax, [4] appeals from his decisions lying to the taluk board instead of to the Collector. [5]

All this, however, did not amount to any real relaxation of central control. For in many of these cases the boards could only make proposals, and before they could be carried into effect they had to receive the approval of the Governor-in-Council. This was the case with regard to proposals relating to taxation and expenditure—the whole budget being subject to sanction by the provincial Government, [6] the fixing of the places at which tolls could be collected, [7] the number and salaries of the establishments, the transfer of funds from district boards to taluk boards, and the contribution that might be made to other local bodies.

The list of matters on which the previous approval of the Government was required was added to under the rule-making power. The establishment of hospitals and dispensaries and of schools other than elementary, appointments of persons to offices on a pay of above Rs. 100, and new works costing more than Rs. 5,000 were a few of the items in that list. [8]

In certain directions additional powers of control were taken over by the Governor-in-Council for which there was no provision under the Act of 1871. This was due to the fact that under the Act of 1884 local boards were not only given a wider field of action, but had also the opportunity of becoming elected bodies with a popular element in them and with an elected president. There was, therefore, the contingency that a conflict might arise between the Government and the local boards on several questions of policy and administration. No such situation could arise in the case of circle boards constituted under the Act of 1871 as they were presided over by the Collector and as all their members were nominated by Government. Elected bodies might do things which the Government regarded with disapproval, or refuse

1 Section 58.
2 Section 98 to 101.
3 Section 33 (3).
4 Section 78.
5 Section 85.
6 Section 58, 150.
7 Section 888.
8 Local Fund Code, 1907; article 19.

to carry out schemes and policies felt to be necessary by the Government. To meet such a situation the Act empowered the Government to suspend the execution of any resolution or order of a local board, to cancel such resolution or order, and to prohibit the doing of any act done in pursuance of such a resolution or order.[1] Similarly, the Governor-in-Council was authorised in all cases when he found the local board having made default in performing any duty imposed on it to get that duty performed by some other person and recover the expenses from the board.[2]

He could also direct the levy of taxes or tolls at rates higher than those proposed by the district board (but within the limits authorised by the Act) if he considered such action necessary.[3] This general power of vetoing the resolutions and orders of the local boards made them completely subservient to the Governor-in-Council. The Act, it is true, stated that such action should be taken only when the resolution or order was *ultra vires*, or caused obstruction, injury or annoyance to any persons lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or was likely to lead to a riot or an affray. But any resolution could be brought under this provision and vetoed, and there was no appeal from the decision of the executive to any court of law. The tendency for central control to get stiffened in certain respects with the growth of the representative element in the local boards has become a characteristic of the relations between provincial and local Government in the presidency.

The extraordinary powers of control conferred on the district Collector in view of the possibility of non-officials becoming presidents of local boards was another feature of the Act of 1884, and this has become ever since a subject of acute controversy. He was empowered to execute the resolutions of a local board if the president appeared to have made default in carrying them out;[4] he was given the power to enter on and inspect personally or through any of his subordinates any immovable property or any work in progress under the control of a board, to call for and inspect any documents in its possession, to require a board to furnish him with any statements or accounts, and to record for the consideration of a board any observations he might think proper.[5]

1 Section 37.
2 Section 38.
3 Section 59.
4 Section 35.
5 Section 36.

The power of vetoing, suspending or cancelling the resolutions and orders of a local board could be exercised by the Collector also. [1] In cases of emergency—of which he alone was the judge—he could, of his own accord, provide for the execution of any work and recover from the board the expenses incurred for the purpose. [2]

Intelligent public opinion was not in favour of such far-reaching powers being placed in the hands of the Collector. It had less objection to the Governor-in-Council or Inspector specially appointed by him exercising such powers, and there was already provision for such a control.

It was, therefore, felt that the conferring of the same powers on the Collector who could not be expected to possess that broad outlook characterising the officers at the provincial headquarters was unnecessary and even harmful. The Collector would be subject to local prejudice and influenced by local factions and parties. It was on grounds like these that the use of the Collector as an agent of control was disliked by the progressive section of the public. [3] Moreover, the Collector in a district was otherwise a very powerful official exercising both executive and judicial authority. A central feature of the agitation for administrative reform going on in the country for the last half a century has been an attempt at the reduction of the "autocracy" of the Collector; and the granting to him of wide powers of control over local boards was naturally opposed by the party of reformers.

The brief survey of the Act of 1884 makes it clear that the control of the provincial Government over local boards was excessive, and that the boards had very little of autonomy. It may also be remarked that there was under this Act a combination of all these features of control found separately in England, the United States of America and France. There was legislative control on the model of England and the United States; there was administrative control on the model of France; there was control exercised directly by the provincial Government and inspectors appointed by it on the example of England, and at the same time control by the district Collector similar to that exercised by the prefect of the department in France. [4] No

1 Section 37,

2 Section 38.

3 Report of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, Para 803, some adverse remarks on the "Emergency" powers of the Collector.

4 Munro : *The Government of European Cities*, Chapters III and XII,

instrument was left unused for keeping the local boards in complete subordination to the provincial Government. Though the Act underwent several amendments in 1900 very little was then done to bring about the relaxation of State control. The only noteworthy changes introduced into the amended Act were that before the Governor-in-Council dissolved a taluk board, or removed from office the president, the vice-president or any of the members of a local board, he should give to the parties concerned an opportunity to put forward objections, if any, to his proposals and to offer any explanations. [1] He had to follow the same procedure when he proposed to withdraw from a district or taluk board the privilege of electing its president that might have been previously conferred on it. [2]

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON DECENTRALISATION

It was this excessive control that impressed itself strongly on the Royal Commission on Decentralisation that examined the subject at length in 1907 and 1908. [3] The commissioners analysed minutely the nature of control exercised over each department of work entrusted to the local boards and made a number of liberal recommendations. In regard to public works they found that the provisions requiring the scrutiny of the Government Superintending Engineer in respect of certain estimates and the sanction of the provincial Government in respect of several other works were too stringent and constituted "a large interference with the discretionary powers of the rural boards." [4] They recommended that "such restrictions should be swept away and that district and sub-district boards should have full powers in the allotment of funds, and the passing of estimates for works within their respective spheres of duty. This recommendation was very reasonable in view of the fact that the district boards in this presidency had in their service engineers highly qualified for their work which was not the case in most other Indian provinces.

In the sphere of education they observed that the boards were supposed to concern themselves with the management of schools maintained out of their funds, but that, as a matter of fact, they were

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1 Sections 5, 24 (2).

2 Sections 9 (2), 15 (3).

3 Para 807; also evidence of H. D. Taylor—Question 7224, and of A. G. Cardew 7622, Page 239.

4 Para 749 of the Report of the Commission.

handed over to the Government Educational Department, and that the inspecting agency was mostly governmental. They also remarked that the boards were restricted by departmental rules and provincial educational codes, which settle the school curricula, the extent to which the grants-in-aid may be given, the proportion of masters to scholars, holidays, etc., and their management was little more than nominal, and that in consequence they took very little real interest in educational matters. [1]

It is no wonder that the commissioners were driven to such a conclusion when the Local Fund Code declared that "all local fund schools are under the direct control of the educational department and are administered according to the principles of management adopted for State schools, [2] and that supervisors of primary schools (though servants of boards) are under the control of the inspecting staff of the educational department who will determine their duties in communication with the local boards.[3] " They, therefore, recommended,[4] that the boards should have reasonable latitude in these matters; that the appointment and promotion of teachers should be in their hands; that they should be given discretion in the matter of their aid to private institutions; that they should be encouraged to maintain their own inspecting staff; and that primary education could never become adopted to the needs of the people until the boards get direct responsibility for its evolution and management. [5]

In the case of medical services the conclusion arrived at were not different. There also the commissioners were able to show that the boards merely provided funds while the actual management of their hospitals and dispensaries was under the control of the Government civil surgeons of the district, and that, as the hospital assistants and surgeons employed in those medical institutions were Government officers lent to the boards, the latter were not in a position to exercise the same disciplinary control over them as over their other subordinates.[6] It was, therefore, their recommendation that hospitals and dispensaries should be under the control of the boards maintaining

1 Para 753; also questions 2316, 2322, 2323 9291-93.
2 Local Fund Code (1907), Article 385.
3 *Ibid* Article 392.
4 Para 753.
5 Para 754.
6 Para 757.

them, and that the staff employed in them should be converted into regular board servants, and that the boards should be granted the freedom to borrow the services of a Government officer or appoint a qualified man from outside. [1]

The suggestions in regard to vaccinators and sanitary inspectors were of a similar character. [2]

In the matter of finances they were of opinion that the outside control exercised over the budgets of the district boards was very close, and that it destroyed the financial responsibility which the boards ought to possess and without which local self-government could not be a reality. [3] They recommended that boards should have full power to pass their budgets subject only to the maintenance of a prescribed minimum balance, that they should not be obliged to earmark particular proportion of their funds for expenditure on particular items, [4] and that they should be permitted to make re-appropriations of budget provisions as between main heads of expenditure and to make supplemental allotments. [5]

On the question of establishments they were averse to the rule which required the sanction of the Government for alterations in their scale of salaries and for all higher appointments carrying a salary of more than Rs. 100. [6] They proposed that in these matters the boards should have more independence and that a sufficient amount of control could be obtained by Government promulgating model bye-laws or schedules consisting of general rules on matters relating to leave, allowances and salaries to be given to board officials of various classes. They also recommended that the sanction of the Government in regard to individual appointments should be confined to a few very important posts like that of the engineer, the health officer, the paid secretary of a board—posts which required high qualifications in the incumbents.

The appointment and dismissal of such officers as well as alterations in their emoluments should be approved by the Government. [7]

On the whole subject of control the commissioners laid down a few general propositions ot great importance. One was that services

1 Para 758.
2 Para 759, 760.
3 Para 780.
4 Para 778.
5 Para 784.
6 Para 786.
7 Para 787.

paid for by the boards should also be controlled by them. Another was that the contribution by Government of even a substantial grant-in-aid of a service should not be made an argument for taking over the entire management of such a service.[1] A third proposition was that in place of control in such matters of detail amounting to interference the Government should rely more on the mechanism of advice and helpful assistance and of inspection of the work of the boards from time to time.[2] The real object of all control is to make the boards more efficient in the discharge of their duties. It is not control for its own sake. It was possible to gain this object by means of advice and suggestion instead of by using mandates. The possibilities of control through advice were as yet hardly explored, greater reliance being placed on the efficacy of compulsion.[3] Similarly, the provision in the Act relating to the appointment of inspectors was not made use of to any extent. Inspectors coming from the provincial headquarters could really gather a large amount of information on the work of the boards, spot out the defects and give to the Government the material on the basis of which real improvements could be carried out.

GRANTS-IN-AID

The report of the Royal Commission made reference to the argument of some witnesses that Government grants to local boards justified the exercise of increased control over them. There was, however, a misapprehension in this point of view which requires to be removed. There was in those days and in the years preceding and immediately following no real connection between the making of grants and the exercise of control. In the first place the grants were not of a substantial character till 1905-06. It is true that they amounted to nearly sixteen lakhs in 1873-74 forming 27 per cent of the total income of the boards but they gradually dwindled from that year till in 1880-81 they reached the lowest point of Rs. 47,500 which meant only 9 per cent of the total receipts of the boards. They showed some signs of increase in subsequent years ranging generally between two and three lakhs of rupees from 1884-85 to 1901-02, and this amounted to less than 4 per cent of the total income of the

1 Para 745.

2 Para 753, 773 (IV).

3 Para 749, 759.

Cf. E. S. Griffith : *The Modern Development of City Government*, Vol. II Page 565-69.

S. C. Wallace : *State Administrative Supervision over Cities*, Page 41-6.

boards. It was only in 1905-06 that there was a real advance when, owing to the generosity of the Imperial Government which had in that and in the following years vast surpluses, the Madras Government was put in possession of special funds for distribution among local bodies. The grants amounted to nearly 26½ lakhs in 1905-06 and rose to 75 lakhs in 1913-14. It was only from the latter year that Government grants might be regarded as forming a material part of the income of the boards. At the time, therefore, of the sittings of the commission and during almost all the period preceding it the grants made by the Government were of an insignificant character while the control exercised was throughout very stringent.

It must also be noted that the increasing grants from 1905-06 were made not with the object of obtaining increased control but solely because of the large surpluses at the disposal of the Government of India. There was no certainty that these surpluses would continue indefinitely, but such a certainty was necessary if the grants were to be utilised to gain additional control over local bodies.

Moreover, the Government was not disposed to impose any special conditions on, or demand any particular standard of efficiency from, the boards among which the grants were distributed. No special steps were taken to see that the grants were spent with greater care than the other receipts of the boards. The usual budgetary control to which other items of expenditure were subject was the only control applied to expenditure out of the Provincial grants. The principle on the basis of which the Imperial grant was doled out—the principle of giving to each district board an amount equal to a fourth of its income from land cess—hardly admitted of any distinction being drawn between one board and another on grounds of efficient administration and afforded no opportunity for exercising any special control. Besides these there were a few other grants that were given to poorer boards like the boards of the Nilgiris, Koraput, Bellary, etc., in aid of their general funds enabling them to balance their budgets. Here also the motive of strengthening control was absent. In fact the official witnesses that appeared before the commission disclaimed during cross-examination any idea of using grants as a weapon of control.[1] The one faction in the situation that influenced the Madras Government was that the board should *somehow* spend the grant made to them so that the Imperial Government

1 H. D. Taylor's Evidence. Questions 7517-22, 7555-63.

might not have any reason for stopping the subventions or diverting them to other provinces where they were spent more promptly. [1] That was why no care was taken to see that the boards prepared special programme of works or entertained additional staff for spending the grants made to them. [2] The Government was satisfied if, at the end of the year, the boards could show that they spent all the amount allotted to them.

The truth was that the provincial Government had not much use for grant-in-aid as a method of control. Legislation as well as administrative rules gave all power that it required for fhe purpose. And there was nothing strange or peculiar in this. For it is mostly in countries like England where there is a conflict between the tradition of local autonomy and the growing practical need for central control that grants-in-aid have come as a handy and convenient instrument for extending and popularising this control. Not so in countries like France and Germany where the tradition of centralisation is firmly rooted. [3] In these countries also the system of grants-in-aid plays a very important part in local finance, but it has been serving other purposes than of control. In this respect conditions in the Madras Presidency under the Act of 1884 were similar to those of France and Germany.

AUDIT

The Royal Commission did not enquire in detail into the working of the system of audit of the accounts of local boards but was convinced from the criticisms received that boards were tied down by the rigid application of accounts rules and procedure based on those of the Civil Account Code and that the audit requirements were of too stringent a character. It, therefore, recommended that accounts rules as well as audit regulations should be simpler than those applied to Government departments. It would have been better if the commission had closely examined the subject and given specific suggestions as to the lines on which simplification was possible. For any system of audit which combined simplicity with efficiency would have been a welcome departure.

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1 Thomson's speech in presenting the financial statement 1903, M. L. C. O. Page 1903, P. 119.

2 Habibulla's speech M. L. C. P. 1912, O. 860.

3 Cf. Webb, Grants-in-aid, Page 6.

If properly carried on, audit is one of the most effective agencies and an absolutely essential one for controlling and supervising the work of local boards. In its absence the other devices of control yield only problematic results. It is the one means by which the Government would discover how far the other methods of control are giving the results expected of them especially in the field of finance and in those other fields where the results can be evaluated in terms of money. Legislation and administrative orders may lay down the limits subject to which the boards should levy taxes and rates, and spend their resources ; they may also provide for a detailed control over all the heads in the budget. But it is only by means of audit that the Government can satisfy itself that the boards are keeping themselves within the limits laid down and that they are making the best and the most economical use of the powers granted to them.

The Local Funds Act of 1871 required that the local fund accounts shall be audited by such officer and such manner as the Governor-in-Council shall direct. [1]

Under the Local Boards Act of 1884 the Governor-in-Council was empowered to make rules as to the accounts to be kept by the local boards and published. [2] Accordingly a large part of the Local Fund Code was devoted to the formulation of rules on account and audit and the forms and procedure to be adopted in that connection.

Under these Acts the audit of the local fund accounts in each district was performed by the Treasury Deputy Collector. In one sense he was an outside agent as he had no place on the local boards whose accounts he audited ; but he was in many respects a subordinate of the District Collector who was the chairman of the district board. He conducted the detailed audit. It was also a pre-audit and no payment of bills was made unless the officer was satisfied that the expenditure involved was covered by appropriations, that it was otherwise legal and that value was received for the payments to be made. Though the system of pre-audit was optional it was the practice usually adopted and this made the post-audit or the periodical audit easier. In addition to the detailed audit by the Treasury Deputy Collector the Accountant-General arranged for a yearly test-audit and reviewed the monthly accounts submitted to him.

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1. Section 32. 2 Section 144.

One characteristic feature of the audit rules was that no emphasis was placed on the audit of receipts though in the detailed instructions to auditors a chapter was devoted to that subject. The object of the audit of receipts is to see that all amounts which the boards are entitled to receive in the shape of taxes, rates, fees, etc., are brought to the demand register and reported for collection within the time provided by law and that the collections made are deposited in the Government treasury or the banks as the case might be. [1]

In carrying out this work the auditor of the local fund accounts was freed from much responsibility as the most important source of the income of the local boards was the land cess which was demanded, and collected not directly by the boards but by the land revenue department of the Government. [2] The auditor exercised no check over this item.

All accounts had to be kept in forms prescribed for the purpose by the Government and the number of these forms and registers came to one hundred and forty-two by 1915 involving an extraordinary amount of clerical work which in many cases was unnecessarily re-duplicated. The auditor's duty was to see that the prescribed forms were properly maintained. On the one hand it increased the volume of his work, while on the other hand it made it easier for him to carry on his checking and counter-checking. It was this that the Decentralisation Commission had in view when it referred to the stringent character of audit regulations.

On the whole the audit was purely mechanical, The local boards had not much room for the exercise of discretion in regard to their income or expenditure. The Government laid down minute rules in respect of all matters and exercised complete control over all the details of the budget. There was no opportunity for any board to err on the side of economy or extravagance and the audit provided no data in most cases for a comparative study of the efficiency of several boards. [3] Although it was one of the subjects of the audit to see that the expenditure was necessary for the public service and not greater than the occasion demanded no need was felt for empowering the auditor to surcharge any items of expenditure on any one connected with the boards as nothing was spent without previous sanction

1. Buck. Municipal Finance, P. 113.
2. Local Fund Code (1898). Art. 654.
3. Cf. Robson: The development of Local Government, P. 354.

and as the boards were presided over by official chairmen.

The system of pre-audit by the Government Treasury Officer also made surcharges unnecessary. The liability of members of boards for loss, or waste or misapplication of funds belonging to the boards could only be enforced by a suit for compensation in a regular court of law and not through the process of audit. [1]

THE MOVE FOR RELAXATION OF CONTROL

It was open to the Madras Government to carry into effect some of the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission by exercising its rule-making power. But it prepared to wait till it could get a lead from the Central Government. The latter was slow to act and it was only in 1915 that it issued a resolution [2] embodying its views on the subject. These were, however, so halting that they afforded no guidance whatever even to provincial Governments which tended to be liberal and progressive in their outlook. The resolution gave only a qualified approval to the cautious recommendations of the commission and advocated a slow and very gradual relaxation of control in matters relating to finance, public works and establishments. Its suggestions were not mandatory in character and left everything to the judgment of provincial Governments. The authorities in Madras did not proceed at once to undertake legislation but only issued an order by which their control was relaxed in a few minor matters like remission of revenue by district boards, the revision of establishments in elementary schools, and the setting up of temporary establishments. [3]

The report on Indian Constitutional Reforms issued by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy in 1918 quickened the pace at which the Madras Government had to move. For it gave an unqualified approval to the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission and advocated the view that the boards should be allowed to profit by their own mistakes and that the Government should interfere only in cases of grave mismanagement. [4] It was mainly in conformity with this view that the Government of India brought out another resolution on Local Self-Government policy in 1918. [5]

1. Section 167 of the Local Boards Act, 1884.
2. Nos. 55-77, dated 28th April, 1915.
3. G. O. No. 1909, L of 1917.
4. P. 127 of the Report.
5. No. 41, dated 16th May, 1918.

This was in many respects in advance of the opinions expressed in the resolution of 1915. It was now prepared to concede to local boards the liberty to vary the rate at which land cess might be levied within the limits imposed by law. It had no objection to the boards exercising control over the services paid for by them. It recommended the removal of restrictions on the powers of boards in matters relating to budget except under certain special circumstances. It expressed its disapproval of the system under which the boards were required to devote fixed portions of their revenue to particular objects of expenditure, In the sanctioning of estimates for public works it was a little more cautious but indicated at the same time that where the boards had a competent technical staff or where the cost did not exceed a certain specified sum the boards might be given freedom. It was also in favour of relaxing control over the establishments of boards except in the case of the highest technical officers, the engineer and the health officer.

The resolutions emphasised the need for the Government retaining in its hands special powers of intervention in cases of really grave mismanagement and suggested that the Collector should continue to be the agency through which the control of Government should be exercised. It was at the same time of opinion that a central body might be created at the headquarters for co-ordinating the experiences of local bodies and providing improved control and guidance. This was in acceptance of the view put forward by certain Indian witnesses before the Decentralisation Commission that a Local Government Board should be established at the provincial capital which should contain a proportion of non-official members and which should serve as the channel of Government control over local boards. It may be noted that in the resolution of 1915 the Government of India rejected this proposal.

Even after the resolution was issued in 1918 the Government of India had serious doubts as to whether the proposed relaxation of control would be in the best interests of administration.

It had, therefore, a committee [1] appointed to study the system of Local Government in England and in 1919 that committee published its report suggesting certain modifications in the recommendations made in the resolution of 1918. It was not in favour of a Local

1 The Graham Committee.

Government Board. It also reported that the control exercised over local bodies in England by the central authority was very much more strict than what the Government of India proposed to retain in its resolution ; and that this was specially the case in the scrutiny of plans and estimates for works and in the control over education and over the higher ranks of officials in the service of local authorities. The committee also pointed out that in England there was a strong and organised public opinion to check the vagaries of local bodies and that its absence in India provided a strong ground for a larger control being kept by Government. One valuable suggestion put forward in the report—one not yet carried out—was that local bodies should be given a larger amount of freedom to vary the rates of taxation so that they might not plead the lack of financial resources in the maintenance of local services.

It was under the influence of opinions like these that the Local Boards Act was passed in 1920. It gave effect to the main recommendation contained in the Government of India Resolution of 1918. The introduction of a large elective element into the boards was a very important factor in the relaxation of control. The Act itself determined the qualifications of voters and candidates. [1] The boards were given the power to vary the rates of taxation within the maximum limits laid down in the Act, the sanction of Government being made necessary only in the case of boards having an outstanding loan. [2]

They were also empowered to pass their budgets subject to the condition that they made due provision for the discharge of the loans contracted by them and for maintaining a working balance. [3] They got the freedom to fix the scale of their establishments and the salaries and allowances payable to them. [4] The Government retained control only in regard to the engineer and the health officer. [5] The amendments made to the Act in 1930 introduced no important change in the control exercised by Government

THE PRESENT POSITION

An analysis of the situation at present shows that control is exercised partly through legislation and partly through the action of

1 Sections 52-56.
2 Sections 75
3 Sections 116-17, 119.
4 Sections 67.
5 Sections 68-69.

the provincial executive. The legislature determines the different classes of local boards to be established, their general framework and constitution, the maximum and minimum strength of members on them, the tenure and method of appointing the members and the executive of the boards, the officers to be compulsorily employed by them and several other matters of a constitutional character. It also defines the powers to be exercised by the boards, the objects on which they might spend their funds, the taxes and rates that they might raise and the general conditions to be observed by them in the exercise of their powers. In this respect they are like the local bodies in England and different from those on the continent of Europe. It is well known that the former cannot exercise any powers not specifically granted to them by the legislature while on the continent they can exercise all powers except those specifically prohibited. In most of the German States the formula that is adopted is that the function of the commune is the case of the intellectual, moral, physical and economic welfare. [1] The French Municipal Code states that the council (of the commune) regulates by its deliberations the affairs of the commune. [2] These statements may be taken as indicating the characteristic feature of all continental legislation on the competence of local bodies although their practical effect varies from country to country. Local bodies in the Madras Presidency are modelled on those of England and have their powers rigidly defined.

In several respects this definition serves as a more serious restriction on the activities of local boards here than in England. In the latter country [3] there are a large number of the so-called "adoptive" Acts through which enterprising local bodies can extend the sphere of their work. There is also provision for the passing of local Acts which enable a local body to get additional powers although the procedure is considered to be a little costly and tedious. In this Presidency the field for extension through the use of "adoptive" Acts is very limited as there are very few such Acts. And there is nothing parallel to local Acts. Any widening, therefore, of the powers and functions of local boards has to be the outcome of a revision of the general Act. This is a slow process and keeps

1 Blachly and Oatman: The Government and Administration of Germany P. 361.

2 Munro: The Government of European cities, P. 224.

3 Jennings: Principles of Local Government Law, Chapter VI.

enterprising boards in the same position as that of boards with an unprogressive outlook. The initiative in respect of any desirable change lies only with the legislature and there is no opportunity for a board to give practical shape to its enthusiasm for a new line of work not provided for in the general statute.

The subject is, however, of only academic interest at present. The demand has not yet come from boards that they should be provided with facilities for broadening the scope of their usefulness beyond the field open to them under the existing Act. There is much for them to do even at present and it is the inadequacy of their finances rather than the limits on their powers that stands in their way. The question may assume more practical importance if at any time their finances show considerable improvement and if they become interested in making new experiments.

Even within the limits laid down by the legislature the local boards are not free to carry on their work in their own way.

They are subject to an extraordinary degree of control by the provincial executive—the Governor and his Minister for Local Self-Government. In some cases the subject matter of control is defined in the Act itself but in most cases it is based on the rule-making power granted by the Act to the executive. The power to make rules is very wide. For rules may be made to carry out *all* or any of the purposes of the Act not inconsistent therewith. [1] The work of the local boards might, therefore, be regulated to any extent that the Government likes. It is only rules that attempt to alter, modify or cancel the schedules relating to important matters like electoral qualifications, taxation and finance that require to be placed on the table of the Legislative Council and approved by that body. [2] All other rules acquire legal validity without such approval. It is in exercise of this rule-making power that the Government has created a voluminous Code and a number of manuals to regulate the work of boards and panchayats. [3]

The executive Government controls the life of the local boards. It is the authority for establishing them in the first instance. It has the power to determine the areas of the jurisdiction of taluk boards and panchayats. For, while the Act defined a "district" to mean a "revenue district" it has given a wide discretion to the

1 Section 199. 2 Section 201 (*a*). 3 Section 3 (7).

executive to define a "taluk" and a "village." A taluk board for instance may be constituted for a single "revenue" taluk, or for a part of such taluk or for a combination of two or more such taluks. [1] The same is the case with regard to the area under the control of village panchayats. [2]

The condition to be observed in altering boundaries is that the boards ilkely to be affected should be consulted and in some cases their consent also has to be obtained. The Government is also empowered to terminate the life of a particular board by dissolving it and ordering its reconstitution if, in the opinion of the Government, "it is not competent to perform or persistently make default in performing the duties imposed on it by law or exceeds or abuses its powers," and in the interval between dissolution and reconstitution the authority of the board might be exercised by any person appointed for the purpose by the Government. [3] The Government has the power of superseding instead of dissolving a panchayat for a specified period. [4] It may be noted that powers of dissolution are not possessed by Government in England while they find a place in Germany, [5] France, [6] and other countries on the continent of Europe. Local boards thus owe responsibility to two sets of authorities—the local electorate below and the provincial Government above.

The executive Government has extensive power in determining the membership of the boards. It fixes the actual strength of boards within the limits laid down in the Act, [7] the number and distribution of seats reserved for the minority communities, [8] and the electoral divisions of the local area into circles and wards. [9] It appoints persons for preparing the electoral rolls and conducting elections. It can include in the electoral roll any alien or class of aliens [10] (not otherwise qualified to vote) and it can prevent the sentence of criminal courts acting as a disqualification on candidates for election. [11]

Under the present Act, the Government has no power as it had under the earlier Acts to remove a member elected to the board but it can remove any president or vice-president if in its opinion "he wilfully omits or refuses to carry out or disobeys the provisions of the Act or any rules, bye-laws, regulations or lawful orders issued thereunder or abuses the powers vested in him." [12] In taking this action

1 Section 21 *a* and section 4. 2 Section 23 and 5. 3 Section 54.
4 Section 45 *a*. 5 Blachly and Oatman: *op. cit.* P. 363. 6 Munro *op. cit.* P. 226. 7 Section 10. 8 Section 9. 9 Sections 47-49. 10 Section 57 *a*.
11 Section 55-3. 12 Section 43.

the Government is not under an obligation to consult the board concerned. It has only to give the president or vice-president an opportunity for explanation and issue a statement of reasons for the action taken.

In matters relating to taxation and expenditure the Government has a limited amount of control. The legislature itself has defined the taxes and rates that might be levied by the district boards and the latter are free to levy them without the need for specific sanction by the executive. [1] The approval of the executive is necessary in a few special cases as for example when boards having an outstanding lean resolve on abolishing an existing tax or reducing its rate [2] or when a panchayat proposes to levy a tax (not specified in the Act) on the ground that it is specially convenient and suitable to the village. [3] This clause relating to the proposals of the panchayats is a wholesome one as it secures a high degree of elasticity to their revenues while checking hasty and unwise action. For the levy of the pilgrim tax the previous sanction of the Government is necessary. [4] The boards have a similarly free hand in the expenditure of their revenues in any proportion they like on the various purposes mentioned in the Act.

Their budgets do not require the sanction of Government so long as they make provision for the due discharge of their liabilities in respect of loans and for the maintenance of a working balance. It is only when they fail to make such a provision that the Government can modify their budgets to that limited extent. [5] The sanction of Government is required for expenditure of funds outside the area of a board, [6] for expenditure on tramways, rope-ways, motor-omnibuses, and other transport services [7] and for the utilisation of the accumulated railway cess funds raised under the earlier Act for purposes other than railways. [8] The freedom of boards to make allotments of their funds among the different purposes of the Act is subject to the qualifications that they have to abide by any rules that the Government might have made fixing the scale of salaries, allowances, gratuities, etc., for the employees of the boards and the Schedule of rates for constructing public works.

The borrowing powers of local boards are subject to strict control as defined by the Local Authorities Loans Act of 1914 and the rules

1 Section 74-5.
2 Section 75, 3 (6).
3 Section 75, 2 (*a*).
4 Section 76.
5 Section 117 (2).
6 Section 112 (2) and 121.
7 Section 113 (2).
8 Section 236 (b).

made under it.[1] Permission of the provincial Government is required for loans not exceeding five lakhs and repayable within a period of thirty years, while for loans of more than five lakhs or those repayable after a period of thirty years the sanction of the Government of India is required. Before granting sanction the Government has to satisfy itself that the loan will be spent on a work of public utility, that the financial position of the work on which the amount will be spent has received the approval of the competent higher authority and that there are no other serious objections to the granting of the sanction.

All this scrutiny is necessary when the Government itself lends the amount or empowers the Board to borrow from the public. The Government is also empowered to see that the money is applied to the purpose for which it was borrowed and the works are properly executed.

Closely connected with control over finances is audit. The Act requires the Government "to appoint auditors of the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of every local funds,"[2] and to make rules "as to the accounts to be kept, the audit and publication of such accounts and the conditions under which the ratepayers may appear before auditors, inspect books and vouchers and take exception to items entered or omitted tharein." Government has also to make rules "as to the powers of auditors to disallow and surcharge items, and as to the recovery of sums disallowed or surcharged.[3] In exercise of these powers the Government have entrusted the audit of accounts to the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts instead of to the Treasury Deputy Collector;[4] and the work is done in detail by a large staff of auditors under the control of the Examinor. Under the rules now in force the auditors have ample powers to call for documents and records, to summon the concerned officials and examine them, to report to the boards any impropriety or irregularity observed by them in the finances of the boards as well as any loss or waste of money caused by neglect or misconduct with the names of persons responsible for such loss or waste. The auditors are also empowered "to disallow every item contrary to law and surcharge the same on the person making or authorising the making of the illegal payment; and to charge against any person responsible thereof for the amount

1 Act No. IX of 1914 of the Government of India. 2 Section 120,
3 Section 199, 2 (i) (o), (q).
4 G. O. No, 1016, Finance, 27th November, 1922.

of any deficiency or loss incurred by negligence or misconduct of that person or any sum which ought to have been but not brought to account by that person."

An appeal lies in all these cases to a civil court or to the Government. [1] This provision for surcharge and disallowance is a necessary safeguard against that absence of a sense of responsibility displayed by immature politicians getting through election into positions of authority and abusing the influence they wield through their leadership of factions and parties. It is necessary the Government should make rules giving facilities for ratepayers to appear before auditors as contemplated in the Act. [2]

Government exercises a considerable amount of control on matters relating to officials in the service of the boards. It can compel every district board to employ a district engineer, a district health officer and a district panchayat officer on salaries approved by it. Persons appointed to these offices have to be approved by Government and they can be removed only with the consent of the Government. [3] Government has also the power to prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by the other officers and servants of the boards and to make rules for their appointment and punishment [4] The emoluments to be paid to them may also be regulated by such rules. It is also open to the Government to constitute with the support of a majority of boards concerned any class of officers or service for tho whole Presidency and make rules to regulate the classification, methods of recruitment, etc., of such service. [5] The utilisation of this power to "provincialise" the officers of local boards will vest in the Government an extraordinary amount of control over them as they will then become for all practical purposes the servants of the provincial Government instead of being the subordinates of local boards.

Education, sanitation, communications and public works are the chief functions undertaken by local boards, and, in discharging them, they are subject to close scrutiny and control of Government. [6] Sanction of Government is required for opening secondary schools,

1 G.O. No. 1900, L. & M. of 1932.

2 Sifton. "Local Government System in England." An article in "The Local Self-Government Gazette" (Madras) Vol. VI. P. 436.

3 Section 68-69.

4 Rule 65 of the Local Boards Manual.

5 Section 74-A.

6 Local Boards Manual, Chapter III.

and for establishing hospitals and dispensaries in cases where Government aid is sought. Estimates and plans for sanitary works have to be prepared by the District Medical Officer or the Sanitary Engineer. The sanction of the departmental officers or of the Government itself has to be obtained for all estimates amounting to more than a particular sum which in many cases is Rs. 10,000.

A general power of veto and of action in default is also possessed by Government. It is authorised (*a*) "to suspend or cancel any resolution passed, order issued, or license or permission granted, or (*b*) prohibit the doing of any act which is about to be done or is being done" by a local board if in its opinion the board's action is in excess of the powers conferred, human life, health or safety or is likely to lead to a riot or an affray. The Government has to give to the person or board concerned an opportunity for explanation before taking action. Where immediate action is felt by the District Collector to be necessary he may take such action without waiting for the explanation of the board and report the matter to Government. [1]

When in the opinion of the Government a local board or its president has made default in performing any duty imposed by law it may fix a period for the performance of the duty and if it is not performed within the prescribed period the Government may appoint some person to perform it and recover the expenses incurred from the board. [2] This power to act in default is exercised in many other countries including England.

But there is nothing parallel to the extraordinary powers that the law has conferred on the District Collector to act in cases of emergency. [3] In such cases—and he is the authority to decide whether there is emergency or not—he is empowered to take whatever action he considers necessary without intimating to the board to take action. In matters within the jurisdiction of local boards emergencies appear very rarely and no occasion will be so emergent as to necessitate an outside authority like the District Collector to take action. This provision leads to arbitrary interference with the autonomy of the boards.

Government possess extensive powers of inspection over the work of the boards. It is authorised to appoint officers for this purpose, [4] and there is at present one such presidency officer—the Inspector of

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1 Section 38.
2 Section 41.
3 Section 41.
4 Section 39.

Local Boards and Municipalities. But the work is too heavy for being discharged efficiently by one person. It has, therefore, always been the practice to entrust departmental heads with the duty of supervising the work of boards relating to their departments. [1] Schools are inspected by Government Educational Officers including the Director of Public Instruction; hospitals and dispensaries by the Surgeon-General, the Sanitary Commissioner and District Medical Officers during their tours. Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers have the same duties and responsibilities with regard to local fund works as they have with regard to Imperial and Provincial works and the former are required to include local fund works in their monthly progress reports. [2] Additional information as to the way in which the boards are doing their work may be called for by Government at any time and every board is required to submit an annual administration report giving full details about all aspects of its activities. [3]

The miscellaneous powers of governmental control cover a vast field. Its sanction is necessary for bye-laws framed by the boards. [4] It can require a local board to join with another local authority in constituting a joint committee for any purpose in which there is a joint interest or a joint responsibility and settle details regarding membership of such committees, their powers and their procedure. [5] It can decide disputes between one local board and another local authority. It can pass orders or give directions to a local board on applications for constructing or establishing work-places where mechanical or electrical power is used, on applications for obtaining licence for motor-vehicles and on disputes as to whether a particular place is a market or not. The total effect of the possession of all this control by Government is the reduction of the boards to a position of extreme subordination and dependence.

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1 Section 37—37 (c). 2 Local Boards Manual, Chapter III, 3 L.B. Manual Rule 270. 4 Section 36. 5 Section 205.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MADRAS

UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENTS

An Indian Contributor writes to the *Madras Mail* under date February 18, 1933 :

During the last six months the elections to the district and taluk boards have excited unusual public interest throughout the presidency. All the elections have now been completed with the exception of those for the boards in the Kistna district, which have been held over pending the enquiry into numerous claims made by would-be voters to be included in the electoral list. Two great changes made are the constitution of the district board by the direct votes of the electors, and the abolition of nominations. Hitherto the district board consisted of representatives of taluk boards at least to the extent of one-half. It is now unnecessary to enquire whether the change made was a wise one or not. The entire elimination of nominations has removed the complaint that the powers of nomination were exercised by the Minister in the interests of his own party. But other evils of a graver character have made their appearance. Some of these evils have already formed the subject of comment by those who are interested in the progress and well-being of Local Self-Government in this presidency. A brief summary of some of the present—day tendencies may be of interest to the readers.

The local bodies in this presidency have hitherto been administrative boards, looking after local problems. Since the introduction of the reformed Government in 1920, the Ministerial party for the time being in this province has made an attempt to build up party machinery in each district for the purposes of elections to the Legislative Council. Each in turn has tried to utilise the power of nomination to the local bodies for the purpose of building up a party for itself and nominations were made not because the nominees would be useful in the conduct of local administration, but because they belonged to the Ministerial party. Now that the nominations have been abolished, the leaders of the Council parties have invaded the districts and in the

elections to the district and taluk boards, a Ministerial party and an opposition party have definitely made their appearance in local elections. In each district the election to the presidentship of the district board has become a matter of the most acute controversy. This is a most regrettable tendency. The principles which political parties profess have seldom any real bearing on municipal issues. What a municipality or a board wants is first and foremost honest and capable men. Whether they are Ministerialists or United Nationalists makes no practical difference in the administration of local affairs. We have the high authority of Lord Bryce who stated that "English and Scottish experience suggests that party spirit ought to be kept out of city elections. It distracts the minds of the electors from considering those personal merits of the candidates which ought to be the ground of choice. It is more likely to tend to jobbery. It may diminish that vigilant and impartial criticism of municipal administration which is needed to maintain efficiency as well as purity. If a political party has put a man into office, it is apt when his conduct is impugned to think itself bound to stand up for him and see him through, whereas he ought to be judged simply by his conduct and neither by his political opinions nor by his affiliations." Will the leaders of the political parties in this province profit by the experience of the West and keep the administration of local affairs out of the vortex of party politics?

Already signs are not wanting of the deterioration in the quality of the work of the local bodies or of the members that seek the suffrage of the electors. The breakdown of municipal administration in Madura and Chidambaram, and the removal of the chairmen of Bezwada and Guntur municipalities, the frequent deadlocks in the affairs of some of the other municipalities and boards in the province, and the constant use of no-confidence motions point to the fact that there is a decline in the standard of citizenship. The success of Local Government has such profound importance that any deterioration of the standards at the bottom must affect the whole scheme of a democratic form of Government in this country. Local Self-Government is the best training for democratic Government in a nation. Signs are already visible of the reluctance of citizens of high character and attainments, who have hitherto given their time to the management of local affairs, to undertake these duties hereafter. Even if they offer their services there is no chance of their being returned as members of these bodies unless they ally themselves with one or the other of the dominant

political parties in the district. "Bosses," who can run the electoral machinery, are also coming into existence demanding large sums of money for their services. In these circumstances it may perhaps be desirable to make provision in the local boards and muncipalities for the election of a definite number of members corresponding to the class of aldermen in the muncipalities of the West, to be elected by them on account of their administrative experience, past services, and participation in the public life of the country. The introduction of such a class, who will bring a measure of independence to the discharge of their duties may steady the local administration and be a source of strength.

But the most distressing feature of the situation is the growth of money power in local politics. If any person desires to be the president of a district board he now begins his campaign by putting forward throughout the district candidates who would be willing to support him at the presidential election. The huge sums spent in recent local board elections is the subject of comment everywhere. Well-informed persons have estimated that the amount spent in each district on the average is about two lakhs of rupees, making a total of about 50 lakhs of rupees for the whole province. It is stated that this average has been exceeded in some districts where the total expenditure of the candidates has amounted to 4 lakhs of rupees.

Some of this expenditure is legitimate, but is believed that the great part of it is of the objectionable kind. Apart from the electors in certain areas and districts, it has been suggested that the election of the president of local boards and municipalities has become a source of profit to some of the members. While it is not possible to verify every one of these statements, there is no doubt that bribery and corruption has increased enormously at these elections. It is almost impossible to prove bribery in the numerous subtle forms in which it now exists, and the most stringent provisions of law might prove inoperative. But if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue, no man of ordinary means will be able to occupy the office of the president of a local board. In these circumstanses there is, therefore, need for incessant vigilance on the part of the public and the press. Whatever may be the faults of the American press, the exposer and denunciation of municipal mis-government and corruption is one of the greatest services which that press has rendered to the public in America. There is a need for a similar service by the press of this

country at the present juncture. A band of civic reformers in each district should be organized to keep a watch over local affairs. There is a great deal of isdifference and apathy on the part of the general public in these matters. Complaints are made about the waste and loss of public funds in various ways but no organised effort is made to check them by stirring up public opinion against the evil-doers.

Another undesirable feature is the request made by the members of the administrative services employed by the boards to provincialise their services. Roads, bridges, and other large public works are in charge of highly paid engineers. In the sphere of education loca boards are maintaining all institutions imparting primary and secondary education. Public health and medical relief are also in their charge and a large body of provincial men are employed. All these administrative services have been alarmed by recent developments in the local boards. They complain that the class of members elected as presidents are not able to appreciate and control their work. A number of conferences have been held at which resolutions have been adopted that all these services should be provincialised. They apparently feel that they are being constantly dragged into either one faction or the other in the local boards, and that their position is not safe. Their request for provincialising these services is based upon a fear that they will not get fair treatment under the boards, and they desire either that they should be appointed direct from the Local Government or they should have a right of cappeal to the Government. In any case the present composition of local bodies does not command their confidence. This is an unfortunate development. If the servants of the local boards are not under their control there is likelihood of a constant friction between the local body and the officials appointed by the Local Government. Local Self-Government will be reduced to a farce if every important officer in a local boards is appointed and controlled by the Government. The local boards will then become paymasters at the bidding of the Government.

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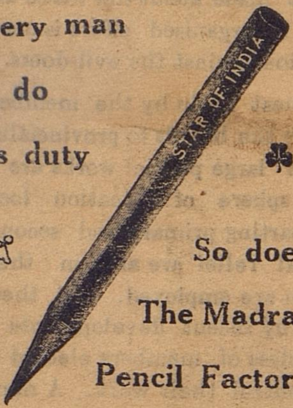

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